

Pick hit: Still Point dancers perform May 3 & 4 in gym

NECC Observer

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Weld choice stuns college



A 'Frank' meeting

NECC REPRESENTATIVES sit in with Rep. Frank Cousins, R-Newburyport, in Boston last week, and thank him for supporting the college. Carmen Russell, left, speaks as Tara Bilodeau, Elizabeth Wilcoxson, Cousins and President David Hartleb look on.

J. Grosky photo

Students lobby for Statehouse support

Representatives hear funding concerns

By JASON B. GROSKY
Editor

Last week, a group of 24 NECC representatives traveled to the Statehouse to express their appreciation to legislators for past support, in addition to presenting some concerns and hopes for the college's future.

Students, faculty members, staffers and administrators joined members of the other 14 two-year state schools for Community College Day in Boston to air their concerns to state representatives

and request their support

After the college's group boarded the a yellow school bus - President David Hartleb discussed the trip's significance.

"We want to maintain our local control of setting fees; we want to make those decisions for ourselves rather than let Jimmy Carlin (head of the Higher Education Board)," he said. "Because we know what Carlin's going to do, he'll cut fees by 10 percent and demolish our budget. We want to get the voice of NECC out to our legislators."

The college's crowd met with state representatives including Brian Dempsey, D-Haverhill, Frank Cousins, R-Newburyport and Harriet Stanley D-Merrimac. The group also bumped into

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◆ Addition of governor to graduation ceremony angers some; council advises to rescind offer

By JASON B. GROSKY & DAVID MILLER
Editor & News Editor

The announcement of Gov. William Weld as the commencement speaker on June 1 has outraged some students, staff and faculty.

In Monday's All College Council meeting, the body voted nearly unanimously to recommend that President David Hartleb rescind Weld's invitation. Ann Salvage, computer science professor, made the motion.

"I request the governor not to come," Salvage said. "I have missed two graduations in 14 years, one for my daughter's graduation. I have told my students that if Weld comes, I will not be there."

Priscilla Bellairs, English department chairwoman, said she would like the student senate to find a speaker, and if none can be found, then to ask Hartleb to give the commencement speech. The council passed this amendment as well.

Paul Bevilacqua, assistant dean of human services, warned of the potential negative impact the decision could have on the college.

"We must be smart; we need a clearly stated rationale with people in general," he said. "Weld gets to the media first. We could be construed as spoiled brats. We could end up looking worse rather than on principle."



Speaker: June 1

File photo

GOV. WILLIAM WELD.

The governor could get far more out of it if we are not very clear, deliberate and smart."

Upon learning of the vote, President David Hartleb said he will not go along with the ACC vote.

"It's not wise; he's the chief executive of the state and the invitation was in good faith," he said. "The college needs to respect who he is and give him the respect he deserves."

In random campus interviews, heard before the ACC meeting, support for Weld as commencement speaker was mixed.

Gene Wintner, ACC chairman, said it was a terrible choice to have Weld as the

See COMMENCEMENT, page 7

Understanding her past helps math professor

◆ Caring teacher reveals the mysteries of math to her students

By BREEDA WHITMORE
Managing Editor

Imagine a 6-year-old child in front of a locked red door. Behind the door are the opportunities of her life. All she has to do is open the door with one of the many keys given to her by the public school system.

None of the keys open the door. Instead, she has to reach inside of herself and pull out the key called determination to batter the door down for herself.

Nancy Nickerson was this child and now she's a teacher at NECC trying to use those keys again. This time, she's changing the locks so other students can open the doors to their futures.

"I, as a child, was very learning disabled,



Let's go for it

B. Whitmore photo

NANCY NICKERSON believes in a last chance for her students.

but I never knew it because years ago we didn't talk about things like that," Nickerson said. "Students were just shuffled from room to room or given extra room for remedial work. I had a lot of bad experiences."

See MATH, page 6

College fees may increase

◆ Students' cost may go up by \$5 per credit hour

By DAVID MILLER
News Editor

NECC's board of trustees will vote tonight on a proposal to raise fees beginning this fall for all students.

If passed, state residents who attend classes during the day will pay an addi-

tional \$5 per credit hour, up from an average cost of \$81. Fees will also increase for non-state and foreign students.

An increase in the student activities fee is also included in the proposed hike. If approved, nearly all students will pay the fee regardless of what time they attend classes.

The student activities fee for those attending classes before 5 p.m. will increase from \$4 to \$5 per credit hour. Other students, including those who attend during

See FEES, page 7

Quote of the Day

"It's an insult to the college and everyone who cares about public education..."

Gene Wintner, page 7

Sports

Check out how NECC teams compare to other colleges



Arts

Hootie's new album reviewed

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As a commencement speaker Weld's a poor choice

◆ NECC has invited
Massachusetts' anti-
public ed. voice as its
graduation speaker

The naming of Gov. William Weld as commencement speaker could help the college politically, especially if Weld wins Sen. John Kerry's seat. But this is a graduation ceremony, not a political caucus.

Graduates spend two or more years working to earn their associate's degrees. The faculty spends the same period of time preparing the students for graduation.

In our view, new President David Hartleb has erred in not asking for further input before deciding to invite Weld.

Reasons for not inviting the governor are numerous. Weld's FY '97 state budget proposal is less than friendly towards education. Included are plans to cut the funding for NECC and other community colleges and slashing the

Choice of Weld makes no sense

To the editor:

I am shocked and appalled to learn that the commencement exercises which I have worked long and hard for three years to be apart of will feature, as keynote speaker, Gov. William Weld.

Mr. Weld is anti-higher education, anti-public education and, as indicated by recent and ongoing contract negotiations, anti-faculty and anti-staff. He stands against everything the NECC community values, and makes no secret of it, by his actions, if not by his words.

This choice of speaker makes about as much sense as inviting Newt Gingrich to speak at a conference on feeding poor, hungry children, or inviting Dan Quayle to

Editorial

state's popular K-12 education reform law by \$95 million. Thankfully, the House and Senate are in the process of rejecting both proposals.

If a more democratic process of selecting the commencement speaker were used, this controversy could have been avoided. Students should have a voice and should be able to vote on choices generated by a well-represented commencement committee.

In light of Weld's repeated attempts to cut public higher education, Hartleb should have considered the strong feelings and sentiments of not only the graduating students, but many of the college's employees, and invited someone else.

"The monster in the Statehouse" (a term used by one faculty member describing Weld) will no doubt still attend the graduation ceremony on June 1. Most in attendance will see his appearance as little more than a campaign stop in his efforts to garner a healthy vote in the Merrimack Valley.

Letters

speak at an awards dinner honoring the dedication and accomplishments of single mothers.

It is time for NECC to move away from having politicians as commencement speakers and choose, instead, speakers who represent our collective mission. How about a scientist, an educator, an author, a proponent of human rights?

Having Gov. Weld as commencement speaker smacks of political brown-nosing of our graduation and of NECC as a whole. I, for one, am embarrassed.

Lividly yours,

Janet Clark, liberal arts

Sexual harassment is still a problem

To the editor:

Communication is a process that sometimes doesn't work. The easy kind, between two people who know each other and represent only themselves, may be understood with a minimum of complex vocal and facial inflections.

Anything can happen in a pluralistic, multicultural society such as ours. Collect us into groups, large or small, institutional or free-standing and there you have it, the climate of bureaucracy which requires appropriate forms and procedures. Enter the advocate, as superman and wonder woman.

Advocates can help you understand the NECC Policy and Procedures against Sexual Harassment. This means that advocates can help you protect your rights to an education at NECC or your workplace free of sexual discrimination or hostility.

They also can help you distinguish between an untoward remark or practice and a damaging one, between letting it go or filing a complaint. Advocates are trained, unlike the rest of us.

Advocates selected from the Sexual Harassment Resource Group will:

- Be familiar with sexual harassment, the institutional policy, the administrative procedure, the affirmative action procedure and alternative options.

- Be familiar with the psychological and social effects of harassment on a "complainant."

- Be able to maintain confidentiality and objectivity.

- Be willing to serve and willing to provide the time necessary to do so.

In some cases the advocate may receive the complaint. In other cases a complaint may be referred to an advocate. Advocates should be able to provide the following:

- Meet with the complainant and assist in making a preliminary determination as to whether the definition of sexual harassment applies.

- Provide information about options, internal and external procedures.

- Provide for an informal resolution should that be appropriate.

- Assist the complainant in preparing for meeting(s) with the Affirmative Action Officer, legal counsel of the college or an outside agency.

Currently there are two advocates on campus: Judith Kamber, director of staff development, ext. 3955 and Ellie Hope McCarthy, (Faculty), English Dept., ext. 5854. Please call if you require additional information.

Judith Kamber,
director of staff development



Put your hands together

THE NEW NILE Orchestra celebrates Earth Day on April 22. It's just one of many shows the student senate has sponsored to gather campus interest.

C. Tierney photo

Activities lacking support

Senate Column

faculty and administration; they actually should attend some of the events and not just give notice about them.

I remember when students banded together to help their teachers during the whole "work to rule" issue earlier this school year.

Many students marched in protest to help their teachers during that time. Some even took the time to write to their congressman to solve the crisis.

Now that the "work to rule" T-shirts are gone and the protests that the faculty encouraged students to attend are over... why aren't they supporting our programs?

Susan Sanders is the adviser of theater-related subjects and manages the Top Notch Players with her husband, Jim Murphy.

She recently said she feels the programming is mainly for the students, but administrative and faculty support is a nice thing to have. She also feels the level of support is good now.

The Top Notch Players has a presidential night for one of their performances and is specifically for the president, administration, faculty and student senate.

This performance is well-attended by the English, history, creative arts, nursing and science departments. Sanders doesn't know how much school staff attends on other nights, though.

What this writer wants to know is: how many people would've shown up for President's Night if the president wasn't there?

If there were more support from the school administration and faculty, all the events would be better attended.

It is up to them to notify their students about the programs and to actually attend some of them to let the student body know that they are involved and do support them.

Editor's note:

Michael Smith is a member of the student senate.

Michael
Smith

◆ Administration and faculty partly to blame for student apathy on campus

April has been a busy month for student activity programming. Some of these activities included: a music/coffee house featuring the duo known as The Nudes, an event to make the public aware of abused/battered women and children known as the Clothesline Project, several performances of *Blithe Spirit* put on by the Top Notch Players, and an Earth Day performance by the New Nile Orchestra.

There's even been people who participated in wrestling matches wearing huge sumo wrestling outfits! There was also a nice turn-out for the comedian Richard Ceisler recently.

A Still Point dance performance and a spring concert by the music and chorale ensemble of NECC are yet to take place.

I've attended many of these events, and frequently we have invited faculty and staff.

It has been my observation there is minimal faculty and administrative support for these events.

I wonder if teachers, in their pre-class announcements, could let students know about the programs and encourage them to go?

Even though the events are somewhat attended by students, I wouldn't exactly say the events were "well" attended.

There just has to be more involvement on everyone's part, and that should include

Letters Policy

• The 'Observer' welcomes your comments. Please limit letters to 300 words, make sure they are typed and signed with your major and include a telephone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit for space, clarity and content.

National Pacemaker
Fall 1995
ACP Best of Show
Fall 1995
Silver Crown Award
Spring 1996

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Legalizing prostitution...

Has many benefits



Scott Ferren

◆ *Regulating the occupation would help prevent spread of STD's and the states could collect money via taxes*

The criminalization of prostitution is an idea whose time has passed and laws prohibiting the oldest profession should be thrown out the window.

Legalizing prostitution brings many benefits, including collecting taxes on prostitutes' and brothels' income, giving a woman more control over her body and, most importantly, regulating it so prostitutes would have to be tested for sexually transmitted diseases regularly and legally requiring customers to wear condoms.

Another benefit is the eventual reduction of streetwalkers, thus eliminating a common eyesore in many cities.

This isn't to say streetwalkers would entirely be eliminated, but customers would be more likely to go to a brothel where it's legal and safe than suffer the public embarrassment of an arrest or potential for disease.

While some may argue decriminalizing prostitution may send an immoral message to our society, the profession's popularity says something in itself. Besides, morals should be dictated by individual choice and not by lawmakers.

Certain things in our country are obviously illegal for good reason: murder, theft and assault among them. Those are cut-and-dry issues, impossible to contest because they're acts that cause pain and suffering to others.

Prostitution does not cause pain to either party involved. It concerns two adults consenting to an act that essentially boils

Pro

down to an exchange of money for services.

No one complains about taking their car to a mechanic to have it fixed, or having someone come and clean their house, yet because prostitution involves sex, it's considered an immoral and salacious act.

Why should paying someone for oral sex be any different than paying someone to mow your lawn? It's the same basic principle, yet the morality of "sex is bad" somehow gets in the way.

Another issue lies in the control factor. Those who are pro-choice on abortion should be able to relate. The biggest argument surrounding the pro-choice movement is that it's the woman's body and she should have the ultimate say in what she does with it.

Pro-choicers argue the state should not be able to tell a woman what she can and cannot do with her body.

The prostitution debate is the same. Telling a woman she cannot sell her body for money takes away her control. Whether or not someone thinks prostitution is immoral, the undeniable fact remains that there's an element of government control involved here.

It's funny how the law works. A person can legally go to a massage parlor and have almost every inch of their body touched within the law, yet if the masseuse's hands happen to wander to the genital area, it instantly becomes illegal.

Sex has its health benefits as well. Most people feel relaxed and fulfilled after a round of good sex. It helps alleviate some of the stress in our lives. Hell, people get stressed out from not having sex.

If a working man needs a little tender-loving care after a stressful week and feels the need to let some of that negative energy out in a positive way, why should the law say he can't? I use men as an example because it's no secret most prostitutes are women and most customers are men. Women should have the same right to relaxation, too.

The government and state should relax their stranglehold on the people and our right to choose and immediately decriminalize prostitution. It could do a world of good for our society and those who feel so much guilt and shame from such an enjoyable act.

Frees us too much



Matt Connery

◆ *The government must promote morality and take a stand against the crime instead of rationalizing the law*

It may sometimes seem like America's war against crime ends up as a futile battle against an indestructible monster, but our elected officials need to maintain their stance and not legalize something just because they can't control it.

Nevada legalized prostitution after years of trying to curtail it, especially around the casinos.

The government cannot step back from its age-old position on an issue just because it has trouble enforcing the law. Backing down shows Americans they have no backbone. It wouldn't make much sense to legalize murder if the police can't stop it.

Crime will always exist in this country and every other one, which necessitates having government, police and laws to try and curtail it as best they can.

The government does nothing for its citizens if it just gives up on seemingly unstoppable crime.

Despite every American's right to do what they please, an over-abundance of freedom will allow good people to make bad decisions.

How do we regard the neighborhood kid that gets everything he wants? In general, we watch the child grow up into a spoiled and somewhat maladjusted member in society.

The government needs to use its wisdom to help us to grow into respectable people; if it doesn't, we will plunge deeper as an apathy-riddled nation. We may have the right to exist in that state, but what would

Con

it accomplish?

Too many freedoms allow people to escape responsibilities and gives them more options to accomplish nothing with their lives.

By legalizing prostitution, we give our children the right to escape reality and responsibility by selling themselves to strangers, without consequence.

Many Americans believe that we lack in education and drive, which allows other countries to overshadow us. Although many of us feel this way, we would still allow prostitution to serve as a beacon for the underachiever who has every reason to give up and turn to the streets.

Imagine the impact of a mother who sells herself to strangers as a part-time job would have on the children she raises. By desensitizing sex to young people, we open the doors for them to have sex, spread disease and have babies.

The result would be a cyclical trend that may never cease. Overpopulation and disease would whittle away at us until we all fall down.

If we legalize prostitution, the government can keep control of disease better by constantly testing for HIV and other STD's. Why should the government be held responsible for making sure that the people we have sex with are healthy? Have we finally gotten so irresponsible that we need the government to provide this service for us?

People have dealt with life's problems in the past without turning to paying for sex as a measure of coping. We can continue to strive through our lives without having this service available on every street corner in small town America.

How many more illegitimate children would come into this world every year if we could legally pay for sex? Many problems would arise involving more unwanted children and further complications in the abortion issue.

We may have the right as Americans to live as immorally and irresponsibly as we want as long as laws aren't broken, but where might this country stand today if the founders of the United States had lived their lives in such a manner?

We didn't achieve this status as a nation by selling ourselves to each other for money.

Should all 50 states legalize the oldest profession?



Carlene Torosian, exec. secretary

"No, it would make women devalue themselves more than they already are by men."



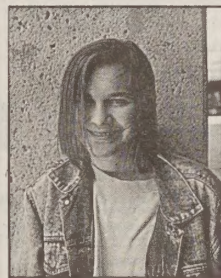
Michelle Tongate, commercial arts

"I think it should be legalized. I just think the police waste too much time busting prostitutes when there is bigger crime to take care of."



Hugh Tolden, nursing

"Yes, it will cut down the spread of disease and would eliminate social problems. Prostitution is a victimless crime."



Erin Fritz, acting

"No, because it's disgusting. It's like asking if heroin should be legalized; it's degrading to people."



Amie Auricchio, accounting

"It doesn't matter to me whether they legalize it or not. It's going to continue to happen anyway."



Jeff Slattery, engineering science

"No, because prostitution is immoral."

R. Ahern photos

What others are saying...

Giselle Belliard, business management: "I respect everyone's opinions, but no it shouldn't be legalized. I believe it's immoral."

Angelique Pinet, commercial arts: "Sure, seeing as it's so popular now it should be. Personally I don't think it should be. If a person wants to choose that way of life, why not?"

Martin Gutierrez, registered nursing: "Yes, because I feel people should have the freedom to do what they want with their own body."

Kim Parisien, human services: "No, because there is enough sickness in the world already."

Wendy Janard, commercial arts: "No, because then it would be all right, and it would be a normal thing to do."

Steve Teal, security officer: "No, because in that kind of a case a lot more diseases would be spread around."

Tracey Perkins, dental: "No, because the spread of AIDS will multiply."

Jessica Stewart, liberal arts: "No, it shouldn't be legalized; it will cause more

problems like spreading disease."

Steve Shepard, general studies: "Yes, people are going to do it anyway. As long as there are places for the prostitutes to get medically checked for diseases so they don't spread any. Their profits could even get taxed by the government."

Darlene Gulezian, liberal arts: "Yes, it goes on anyway. It is a matter of choice."

Ed Santos, liberal arts: "Only if it's the high class professionals, if they're tested every week to keep it safe."

Tara Bilodeau, liberal arts:

"No, it is demoralizing to women in general."

Sue Smulski, technical assistant II: "That is

not a question I have pondered. I suppose if it was set up correctly it would make sex safer, but I don't think however, you set this up they'll change how they're going about business now. It will just be driven more underground."

Jennifer Thomas, gen. studies: "No way! Prostitution is demoralizing to women, and the ones who are prostitutes are usually drug or alcohol abusers that carry around diseases. I think it is morally wrong for the government to even think about legalizing this."

Erin Dursa, liberal arts:

"No, there will be more unwanted children and abortion."

ESL prof. brings worldly experiences to classroom

◆ Portsmouth native shares his life's stories and expectations

By MARK PALERMO
Guest Contributor

He started out as a DJ in New Hampshire and ended up on an English-language radio station in Mexico City in the mid-60's. He worked in Saudi Arabia and spent a year bumming around Europe.

He lived in Chile just after the infamous coup of 1973. He speaks five languages, most of them fluently.

He is NECC's own Allan Hislop, coordinator of the ESL department.

In undergraduate school, Hislop studied linguistics. He defined linguistics as, "The study of how people conceptualize inner reality into sounds."

Because it is essentially the study of symbols, linguistics leads into so many different areas. Noam Chomsky, professor of linguistics at MIT, for example, is probably the most famous linguist.

Hislop said, "If someone ever creates a computer that can speak spontaneous English in context, it will be done through Chomsky's linguistic theory."

From there Chomsky's work has led him down the road to political analysis—which is not at all incongruous; politics may be the most symbolic of all professions.

Murray Edelman, author of *The Symbolic Uses of Politics* said, "It is characteristic of large numbers of people in our society that they see and think in terms of stereotypes, personalization, and oversimplifications, that they cannot recognize or tolerate ambiguous and complex situations, and that they accordingly respond chiefly to symbols that oversimplify and distort...reality can become irrelevant for persons very committed to an emotion satisfying symbol."

"Linguistics touches upon all the social sciences," says Hislop. Even in the study of ancient civilizations, linguistic patterns are such a strong indicator of migrations, wars, trading routes, etc. that they are used in the study of history. This is called comparative or historical linguistics.

There are even more roads that branch out from linguistics. Hislop's field is called descriptive linguistics.

"I deal with the surface structure of other languages." He said that this branch is currently considered unhip and old fashioned. Many modern linguists, surprisingly, neither speak a second language nor care to learn one. Hislop speaks five languages with varying degrees of fluency. His best foreign language is Spanish, which he speaks with fluency.

"I never started out to be a language teacher. I wanted to have a radio station," said Hislop.

While at Dartmouth, he started out in college radio, and later moved on to WTSL in Hanover and WBBX in Portsmouth doing news and voice-overs.

Guest Column

After college came a year of traveling around Europe, eight months of which were in Spain where he learned the language. Then came a job teaching English in Saudi Arabia for a year and a half. At the end of this job, Hislop was in the enviable position of being flush with money. He decided to travel throughout South America, but he made it only as far as Mexico City where, by chance, he stumbled into a job as a radio announcer on an English language radio station. It was in Mexico City that he decided he wanted to be a teacher.

"Radio is a very solitary profession, and I enjoy working with people," says Hislop.

After a few years of more or less transient language teaching jobs, he got a job working for the U.S. Information Agency in Chile where he stayed from 1974 to 1976 as a teacher trainer, lecturer, adviser, and English teacher.

These were the years right after the infamous bloody coup during which the dictator Pinochet came to power. Many people were arrested, tortured and murdered. Speaking of this tragic time, Hislop says that Chile was in a state of chaos.

Today Chile is one of the fastest developing economies in South America, if not the world. Inflation is moderate and the national debt is under control, and the black market has disappeared because it has been legitimized by the free market. And Pinochet is tremendously popular if we are to believe the polls.

"Most people wanted Pinochet, but it was a terrible price to pay in human rights abuses," says Hislop.

As an experienced world traveler, Hislop has some sound advice for neophytes.

"Don't ever travel at night in an underdeveloped country." Hislop learned this lesson the hard way in 1990 when he was on a bus trip in Peru. Bandits boarded the bus, ordered the passengers off, and for the next two hours searched and robbed everyone. Hislop was robbed at gunpoint, as one of the bandits held a gun against his throat.

Hislop grew up in the Portsmouth, N.H. His mother was a die-hard Democrat and his father was a Republican.

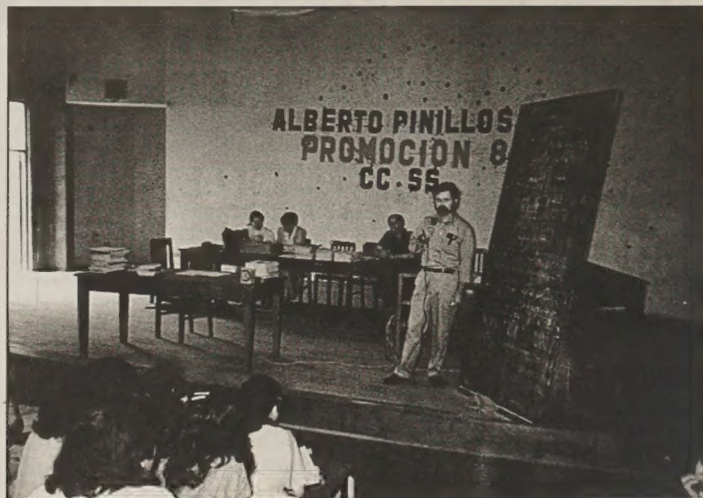
"They loved each other, but there were times when they couldn't stay in the same room together."

As to his own political philosophy, Hislop describes himself as, "emotionally Republican, but intellectually Democrat." By this he means that while he espouses the virtues of self-reliance, individualism, the free market and a limited role for government, he is alarmed at what he calls the "Brazilification of America, the alarming polarization of wealth in this country that, if it continues unabated, will ultimately result in a society with only two economic classes, rich and poor.

Hislop feels that immigration has had a positive effect on the United States.

"I wish the federal government would pay for programs to get people launched." Like priming a pump, you have to put a little water in to get a lot of water out.

"Our ESL courses are doing this, but I



Speaking about Chile

ESL COORDINATOR Allan Hislop discusses his travels and teachings.

File photo

don't know if the government realizes it."

While Hislop feels a great deal of sympathy for immigrants, he feels the United States has the right to control illegals—although barring access to hospitals and schools is the wrong way to go about it.

If a friend were to describe Hislop's personality to a stranger, there are perhaps three personal traits that would immediately come to mind. One is his sense of fairness and personal integrity; another is his Herculean ability to organize people and things and make order out of chaos.

A third trait is curiously eccentric: his ostensible pessimism, which is not really pessimism at all, but a personal coping mechanism, a perverted optimism that takes measure of the worst that can happen, so that anything that happens after that is good news, clean profit.

His tongue-in-cheek, laconic projections of future doom and disaster, are a source of good-natured humor among his coworkers.

His sense of humor reminds me of something Robert Frost once said about poetry. He said a poem should either contain inward seriousness and outward humor or

outward seriousness and inward humor. Hislop reminds me of the second definition—outward seriousness and inward humor.

"My cup is always half full. I am a pessimist," he said. "But the funny thing, is that I'm not paranoid."

Hislop learned about overcoming adversity at a young age. At the age of seven, he was afflicted with scoliosis, a debilitating back problem. Unable to lead a normal life, he went through major surgery at thirteen. As a result he spent a year in a hospital bed and another two years in a body cast.

"I learned about other people's problems," he said.

The quality of empathy, along with intelligence and the ability to communicate, are the essential prerequisites not only for a successful teacher but for a successful human being as well.

Religious faith? "I don't believe in a personal God," he said. "I don't know what there was in the beginning. God is a higher power operating through people to manifest peace and justice in the world."

Editor's note: Mark Palermo, associate professor, English Language Center.

Student activities offer plenty, but no one shows



Sierra Frank

Opinion Column

goes beyond free cartoon showings. There are students who pay for memberships at fitness clubs, ignoring the free facilities on campus.

A good part of the theater audience at the school is there on class assignment, and the sports teams fall apart more often than not, all due to lack of interest.

NECC does offer a really wide variety of activities and services to its students, and it's depressing to see so few of them take advantage of these opportunities.

Why this apathy? I can't answer that. At first I was sort of outraged. Why don't people go to these things? They should!

But then I stopped and asked myself if I would have gone, had I not been doing a story on it. The honest answer, was, no, probably not. It's not that I don't like cartoons, I just have things to do. Some things are more important than staying on campus one minute longer than I need to.

A lot of NECC students seem to feel this way. Perhaps the feeling comes from the fact that so many of them do have families jobs and lives outside of the school.

Whatever the cause of the student apathy, I find it profoundly discouraging that so few students use the resources the school offers. Greater student participation on campus could serve to bring the student body closer, to imbue the college with a sense of community that it now seems to lack.

The campus activities are an important part of what makes any school appealing. NECC has some great things to offer, and students would be wise to take advantage of these opportunities.

◆ Too many people overlook the resources offered by the college

On Monday afternoon, I rushed across campus to the library basement, finding my way to the movie room, where, pen in hand, I sat down to watch the Japanese animated series, *Bubblegum Crisis*.

I planned to review the film for this issue of the *Observer*, and incorporate it into a calendar of student activities events. But as I looked around the nearly empty room, I wondered if it was worth the effort.

The audience consisted of myself, the student senate member who organized the video session, and two other students, one of whom was my mother.

Why, I asked myself, is no one here? Everyone loves cartoons! Well, at least enough people to fill a 20-seat theater. And it wasn't a lack of publicity that kept those seats empty. There were posters advertising this event tacked to every billboard and most of the doors on campus.

So what is keeping people away? Do they just dislike Japanese animation? I doubt it. The student apathy toward campus events

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News

Lawrence native wins '96 leadership award

◆ College trustees vote unanimously to honor former Prudential vice-president

By SCOTT FERREN
Editor

Ignatius V. Cataldo, the man responsible for securing the Prudential building for use as the Lawrence campus, has been awarded the college's leadership award.

The award is given annually to an area individual who has served NECC and has displayed leadership and community skills. Last year's recipient was Haverhill attorney Herbert P. Phillips, chairman of the college's paralegal advisory committee.

In 1990, former president John R. Dimitry learned the building was for sale and was urged to contact Cataldo, a retired executive vice president of The Prudential.

Cataldo, recognizing the building could be used as a gift to the city of Lawrence and wanting to give something back to his hometown, used his influence to secure the building for the college.

NECC's board of trustees selects the recipient each year and chairwoman Marjorie Goudreault said there was no discussion when Cataldo's name came up. The board voted unanimously to give him the award.

"I think it's wonderful that we can publicly honor a man who has made such a difference in people's lives," Goudreault said.

Most of Cataldo's friends and colleagues call him "Ivy," a name bestowed on him in the Navy when he was in charge of administering intravenous needles. State Senator Bruce Tarr used the nickname to joke about Cataldo's contributions.

"The Lawrence campus would have been a great place," Tarr said. "But with your help, it has become an Ivy-league institution."

John Tortorice, a friend and former co-

worker, spoke about 1925, the year Cataldo was born.

"Some great people were born in 1925," Tortorice said. "Paul Newman, B.B. King, Jack Lemmon, June Lockhart - a few great people Ivy chose to be born with," he said.

Dimitry said Cataldo and himself were born around the same time, the Great Depression, which gave them a certain sense of morals and the integrity to want to give back to the city once they became successful.

The college had tried to secure a building in '85 and '88, but due to the collapse of the "Massachusetts Miracle," its efforts were unsuccessful. Dimitry said he was about to give up on the idea of a Lawrence campus before he met Cataldo and realized what a great negotiator he was.

Dimitry, Cataldo, Mary Wilson, dean of development, former Congressman, Paul Cronin and two vice presidents from the Prudential lined up a meeting with the governor, Dimitry said. Cataldo and Cronin teamed up on how it would help the community. On May 16, 1991 the building was formally given to the state for NECC to use at a ceremony attended by Gov. William Weld and The Prudential's president, Donald D. Barboro.

This is not the first commendation the college has given to Cataldo. In '91, he was saluted with the honorary alumni award, which recognizes individuals who are not graduates of the college, but have made an outstanding contribution.

President David C. Hartleb applauded Cataldo's efforts.

"He's a role model for all of us," Hartleb said. "He's a giving, caring person. I feel fortunate I've gotten to know him."

Student trustee, Lucy Gagnon, praised Cataldo's community service.

"He really represents the kind of commitment the people of Lawrence have toward their community," Gagnon said. "You don't have people who love you without being that kind of person."

Cataldo was appreciative of the award and joked about all the praise sent his way



during the luncheon.

"What you see is what you get," Cataldo said. "Everything they've said is true, how can I dispute it?"

He talked about his philosophy in terms of getting the job done. He said he follows a method called PODC - plan, organize, direct and control.

"I practice this all the time," Cataldo said. "I believe in telling it like it is. When

Well-received honor

J. Grosky photos

IGNATIUS V. CATALDO was recently presented with the college's annual leadership award by the board of trustees for his part in securing a building for use as a Lawrence campus.

Above, trustees chairwoman Marjorie Goudreault reads a thank-you speech to Cataldo. Cataldo unwraps a gift from the college (left).

we tell it like it is, we appeal to the mind and the heart," he said. He also said this method works to motivate those around him to get their jobs done.

Cataldo shared the credit for securing the Lawrence campus, saying it was a group effort. He said Dimitry had the vision, Cronin got the governor and Wilson talked with Prudential representatives. He also acknowledged Kathy Rodger, Lawrence campus director, Judy Savino and Joseph Brown.

"They all shared my dream, my vision for the kids of Lawrence to get an education," Cataldo said.

Solving problems is nothing new to Cataldo. He said it's part of what makes him who he is.

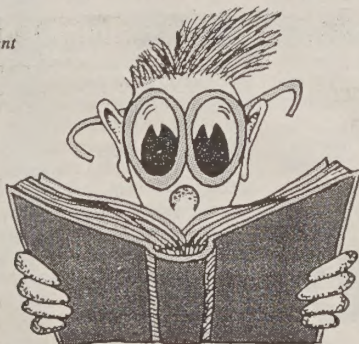
"I consider myself a problem-solver," he said. "My advice is don't be answer-oriented, be question-oriented."

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Math comes alive thanks to this prof.

◆ continued from page 1

Nickerson, professor, department of developmental studies, now spends much of her time in the math center in Spurk Building helping people who are struggling with math problems. Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing might seem like small math issues, but for some students they are like a foreign language.

"I hated and despised math right around third grade," said Kimberely DePiero. "I never learned my tables well, so math became a nightmare for me."

Nickerson said there was no math center when she came to NECC in 1976. Instead, the reading and writing labs were in the room now housing the math lab, and there were no developmental courses.

"Soon the number of students requiring developmental courses grew so large that I couldn't do things individually any more," Nickerson said. "I remember one semester there were 80 students, and I finally said 'we have to create some classes.'"

Basic math and basic algebra were created and gradually intermediate level courses were added.

Nickerson always wanted to be a teacher, but because of her own experiences she wanted to be a different kind of teacher.

"I couldn't tolerate having a classroom in which students felt the way I felt," she said. "I felt everyone in the classroom has a right to be there and had a right to learn in their own way. If it wasn't the way designed by the curriculum, then the curriculum should be altered."

Nickerson, Linda Murphy, coordinator, math center, division of instructional support services, and a staff of four part-timers have created an environment in which stu-

dents can feel comfortable. A table with soup and coffee, popcorn and bagels are always there for the hungry.

"We give them soup and snacks," she said. "Some of our students don't have money for lunch. How can you learn math when you are hungry? How can you learn math when you are cold? We do whatever we can to take care of their human needs and all the other stuff falls into place."

We try to make it warm and we hold all kinds of workshops, she said. Sometimes, though, that isn't enough. Some students have been so beaten down by the system before they get to NECC they don't have the determination to fight and persevere, she said.

Nickerson said she had to use her anger at the system to make it work for her.

"Things that were happening to me were so wrong that I doggedly determined to not let anybody stop me," she said. "I have to make sure that I try to instill that determination in others."

"We try to teach them how to let go and focus on today," Nickerson said. "We try to teach them that yesterday's failures are not today's."

For DePiero, that lesson alleviated all her fears.

"As I got older, my poor math abilities affected all the jobs I wanted," DePiero said. "I thought I had a math disability, but none of it was true."

DePiero said she had to begin at the beginning with multiplication tables and build her way up. She worried that people around her might notice the level she was at, but she couldn't let it stop her.

"People who can't read feel the same way I felt about math," she said. "But in the lab, I could work at my own pace, there was

Challenge Conquered



"I hated and despised math right around third grade. I never learned my tables well, so math became a nightmare for me. As I got older, my poor math abilities affected all the jobs I wanted. I thought I had a math disability, but none of it was true."

Kimberely DePiero

no pressure or competition, and nobody made me feel uncomfortable."

But overcoming past failures can be impossible for some students.

"When students slip through the cracks, it makes us feel bad," Nickerson said. "I don't think we can be successful for everybody especially if they are not coming to class, and they can't let go of their baggage."

Nickerson said the lack of resources is an issue. She said there were 390 seats in developmental math last semester with her being the only full-time instructor.

"I'm trying to wear too many hats, and so what happens is students slip through the cracks," she said.

"There has to be a reallocation of resources to this area, and that is the bottom line," she said. "This area is funded by grants. With the exception of Murphy and I, everyone is on a grant."

She said developmental programs teach the basics, and if people do not get through the developmental courses, they don't get up to English Composition II and all the other courses.

Despite all the pressures beyond her control, some pressures come unexpectedly and require immediate action.

"We've had fights in the classroom because students want to sit in front," she said. "I handle situations like that with humor. I have to quickly take the tension out by saying things like, 'I know you guys love me, but there's only one seat.'"

Too often in life, lies get told. If a child fails in school, they're told they are not bright, or they didn't work hard enough, so their future is dim.

DePiero had to go back in order to get ahead, and now she is about to graduate and go to Merrimack College in the fall as a business student. What was once her greatest hurdle is now her greatest joy.

"Math is my favorite subject," she said. "It's fun. I read the Wall Street Journal and other financial newspapers. It's my life's

work."

"Everybody gets another chance," Nickerson said. "Very few things are absolute. How can I not give them one more chance? I don't judge people because I don't think that's my role. I am a facilitator."

But there is a distinction between giving students a chance to succeed and making things too easy for them.

"I have flunked several people every semester," Nickerson said. "Part of being successful is being willing to put in the effort. We have hundreds of people here who really want to try. We're not turning our backs on the ones that blow us off, but we're not going to put our energy into them."

Being a good teacher is more than knowing the material, Nickerson said.

"You have to be quiet and listen," she said. "You have to be able to share in a very human, multisensory way. You have to be kind, you have to be patient. Oh, Lord knows! You have to be patient."

And she knows all about patience. Nickerson came from a place where there were no positives, and because of that she understands kids with problems.

"I know the horror and it's nothing short of that - horror. It's a living hell," she said.

While she teaches all types of students and likes that variety, her heart is more with those in developmental classes.

Those (not in developmental classes) are easy to teach. They know how to read a book, they know how to take notes, and they want to be there, she said.

"It's enjoyable, and I like having students like that," she said. "But it's much harder teaching developmental courses. They are just like young souls. Being a learning-disabled person myself helps because it's hard for me sometimes to copy things right, so when they don't copy things right how can I berate them?"

Learning-disabled students have to get multifaceted help, and there has to be a counselor there for them, she said.

She explained that if students know about their own particular learning disability she can help make sure they get the tapes and the audio portion of the computer. She can also help them get a notetaker in class.

"We can do all that, now that we have Dr. (Christine) Caldwell and Roxanne Cirelli in the school," she said.

No teacher finds it easy to pick out one student above others, and Nickerson is no different.

"All my students are special," she said. "I would be amiss to pick out just one because they are all so special. There are people I will also remember, Kimberely (DePiero) for one. She was amazing to start with. She is an amazing story."

Like a lock and a key, a teacher and a student cannot be separated.

"I don't have the key on teaching," Nickerson said. "When students come up to thank me after class, I always say, 'why are you thanking me, you did all the work, I just enabled you.'"

"I have been lucky to have good students and nice classes. I just try to create an atmosphere in which students can ask questions at any time."

DOER'S PROFILE

NAME: Chris Q. Transfer

CURRENT OCCUPATION: Full-time student

ACADEMIC INTERESTS: Liberal Arts, Business, Science and Engineering

TRANSFERRED FROM: Anywhere Community College

FAVORITE COURSES AT MERRIMACK: Environmental Biology, Business Forecasting, Making Video

FAVORITE PROFESSOR/PERSONALITY AT MERRIMACK:

Dr. Peter Ford (History), President Santagati

WHAT I LIKE MOST ABOUT MERRIMACK: small classes, friendly campus, the people!

WHY I TRANSFERRED TO MERRIMACK: academic reputation, transfer scholarships/financial aid, liberal transfer credit policy

MEMBERSHIPS ON CAMPUS: Merrimack (service organization), Commuter Council, Intercultural Club, Outing Club

SHORT-TERM GOAL: To delve into my chosen field of study with an internship as I complete my Bachelor's Degree at Merrimack, and to lose ten pounds.

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Campus: mixed views on commencement speaker

◆ continued from page 1

commencement speaker.

"It's an insult to the college and everyone who cares about public education in the state of Massachusetts."

Carmen Russell, student senate president, said he is now undecided if he'll attend his graduation ceremony.

"It's my commencement, and I take it very seriously," Russell said. "And having him at the ceremony dwells on tragic irony."

Russell said he would like to protest, but is concerned it would show disrespect to his fellow students.

While Hartleb said he is concerned about the varied feelings on campus regarding this issue, he's pleased that Weld accepted his invitation to speak.

"I realize that he's not popular," Hartleb said. "But he's still in a position to help us."

Hartleb, who invited Weld, said any protest against the governor would be unfortunate. Instead, this would be a great opportunity to impress him, he said.

Arthur Barlas, history professor, called the choice of Weld symbolic.

"I think it's an opportunity to show Weld what a community college is all about," he said. "Weld will see how important it is for those students who have overcome great difficulties."

Faculty union president, Peter Flynn, said it would be unacceptable for the governor to visit without comment from the faculty. He said he is going to come up with a protest that won't detract from the ceremony.

"We're planning events that will enhance and memorialize the graduation," he said. "And it will send a message

to the governor."

Wintner feels Weld will learn nothing new about NECC. "He's had plenty of time to know us," Wintner said.

"This will just be an opportunity for him to make a speech, nothing more."

James Bradley, professor of psychology, said inviting Weld was a bad idea, saying "it's the student's day to be honored, not the governor's."

Bradley said he would participate in a protest, which would give Weld an appropriate welcome in a dignified way, not distressing to the students.

While many object to Weld's selection because they perceive Weld as anti-public higher education, some students are angry because they feel they were left out of the process.

For Mark Manning, student senate treasurer, the choice of commencement speaker should be left up to those graduating, not Hartleb, who invited Weld.

"With Weld, it's like inviting the lion to meet the lambs," he said.

Manning's choice would have been Malden Mills' President Aaron Fuerstein, whom he considers more appropriate.

Traditionally, those students graduating in the interpreting program are concerned about the commencement ceremony.

Now some students are uncertain whether or not they would participate this year as a form of protest.

"This is ridiculous," Carla Brenn-Green said. "He didn't get my vote."

Fellow student, Laurel Slongwhite, agreed.

"We want to do something," she said. "But we don't

know what."

Many students worry that Weld will use the speech for campaign purposes in his run for the U.S. Senate, to use the students for a large speech. If that is Weld's plan, Manning feels it might backfire.

"Maybe this is the best thing that could happen to Sen. Kerry's campaign," Manning said.

Lucy Gagnon, outgoing student representative to the board of trustees, said those running for office shouldn't be considered as speakers.

"It's like you're being used," she said. "That you're there to hear a campaign speech."

Student Lisa DaVinci said she feels betrayed by the decision to invite Weld. She doesn't think the visit will give Weld a chance to see what a community college is like.

"He has blinders on," she said. "He doesn't want to see."

Many students and faculty were surprised Weld plans to attend the ceremony. Reference librarian, Gail Stuart, said she does not understand the decision to invite Weld as the speaker.

"As far as I know, it's never been a democratic process to pick a speaker," she said.

Stuart worries that Weld will use the event to further his election hopes.

"Weld can present himself as an advocate for public higher education, when he's not," she said. "He can say one thing and do another."

According to Stuart, the faculty and staff have mixed feelings about attending the graduation at all.

As for those students who felt left out of the selection process, Hartleb said he would consult them in future decisions.

Here's a sampling of student views on Gov. Weld choice

The following is a random poll of 360 students at NECC conducted Friday, April 26, by Journalism I and II students. The question read "Do you approve of the choice of Gov. Weld to speak at graduation?" The poll showed 56 percent of students were against the selection of Weld, 24 percent approve of the choice and 20 percent were undecided or did not care to comment. Here are some responses to the poll question:

Mike Puffer, liberal arts, "No, because, generally I find he is bad on education."

Mark Manning, business, "No, because a person that is cutting back on education shouldn't be speaking on education."

Rebecca Dul, liberal arts, "Yes, because he is the governor."

Matt Bistany, criminal justice, "Yes. He's a public figure, good role model and good for the college."

Sean Franey, engineering, "I'm not sure he's a good choice with all the budget cuts he's made."

Aileen Moore, social work, "Isn't he the one that doesn't believe in public education? It's kind of stupid, don't you think?"

Kim Plaster, biology, "No. He doesn't resolve contract and public education issues."

Jamie Jackson, political science, "Yes. Half this school is

not aware on what is happening. His message will go unnoticed."

Justin Chase, journalism, "He's the representative of Massachusetts. I like the guy."

Tiffany Skogstrom, liberal arts, "I didn't know that he was. I'm not a resident. I don't care. Thank God, he's not my governor."

James Fletcher, general studies, "Everything he's done has hurt the students, why should he be our speaker?" "He doesn't believe in public service. He took all of our services away; he's just out for himself and his buddies."

Seth Patterson, history, "I have similar beliefs as he does."

Peter Fragala, liberal arts, "It's good to have the governor appearing at a community college which might be overlooked in the whole sphere of higher education."

Chris Blonda, computer programming, "The biggest reason is that there are numerous better role models and people to aspire to than Governor Weld."

Greg Higginbotham, business management, "No, because of his position on higher education, community colleges and cutting funding."

Gayle Feole, nursing, "Having a speaker that cuts education funding is pretty bad."

Erik Hood, "There is no place for him in education."

Student Poll

Do you approve of the choice of Gov. William Weld as NECC's graduation speaker?

56 percent of students polled do not approve of the selection of Weld

24 percent approve the choice

20 percent were undecided or did not care to comment

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Trustees vote on fees tonight

◆ continued from page 1

the summer and evening, will pay \$1 per credit hour. For now, the tuition paid for by those enrolled in Division of Continuing Education nurse's courses will be left untouched by the increase.

The reasons for the request are outlined in President David Hartleb's and the board of trustees finance committee's proposals. The figures are based upon increasing funding needs for next year and a predicted enrollment decline of 5 percent.

The proposal reads, "Given these factors, if there is no increase in fees, the college's preliminary spending plan will be approximately \$900,000 to \$1 million greater than projected income. On the other hand, the recommended fee increase in this motion will increase revenue by approximately one half of this projected shortfall."

According to Jason Faria, student senate vice president, the proposed fee and tuition increases go against what was requested by the HECC earlier this year.

"HECC asked for a 10 percent fees cut, but they don't have the authority to mandate it yet," he said. "If the board doesn't act on this, we'll have a budget crunch next year."

Faria favors the tuition and fee hike, although he would rather see a higher student activities fee to insure continued survival of the student organizations.

Funding for clubs and other students activities depends on the outcome of the trustees' vote. But Faria is still undecided whether or not the student fee increase will adequately address the needs of student activities.

Faria said he would welcome the chance to work with the president during the coming year to come up with a sound fee restructuring plan. For now, Faria is not completely satisfied with the proposal.

"I would have liked to have had more time to work on it with Hartleb," he said.

New Hampshire College

Chance meeting

◆ *Group bumps into Gov. Weld, new House speaker*

By JASON B. GROSKY
Editor

Sometimes the people in the back of the pack end up ahead of the crowd.

While walking down a hallway in the Statehouse in Boston, Kelly Ryan, a liberal arts/psychology student and Chet Hawrylcw, assistant dean of humanities and communications, were just a few steps behind a crowd of NECC representatives for Community College Day.

As the group continued, Hawrylcw recognized the familiar face of a man waiting for an elevator moving up — Gov. William Weld. Hawrylcw then introduced Ryan as an NECC student.

"I stopped him with a kick in the shins," Ryan said jokingly.

Ryan, a Georgetown resident, grabbed a packet and passed it onto the governor. The packet listed information concerning initiatives the 15 schools want passed. Weld took the packet, but did not respond.

Hawrylcw and James Bradley, behavioral sciences professor, later bumped into Thomas Finneran, speaker of the House.

"The chance meetings we had with Gov. Weld and Finneran were as important as the arranged meetings with the representatives," Hawrylcw said.

Hawrylcw said he and Bradley spoke with Finneran for five minutes, in which the pair gave him a packet and discussed their state funding and fees-setting concerns.

Students lobby in Boston

◆ *continued from page 1*

Gov. William Weld and Thomas Finneran, the new speaker of the House (see related story, left).

Among the issues concerning people at NECC includes the Fair Share Act, sponsored by Sen. Stan Rosenberg, the Senate Ways and Means Committee chairman. The proposal would nearly cut the cost of students' tuition in half.

"I'm in full support of Fair Share," Dempsey said. "I'm concerned about the cost of higher public education and I know it (he attended U.Mass/Lowell). Public education shouldn't be about increasing prices."

Another concern of NECC members is the matter of setting fees.

Proposals by the Higher Education Board would give them the power to regulate the rate of fees, which is currently set by the board of trustees.

"There's a great NECC board, and I like localized control," Dempsey said.

In a meeting with Kelly McLaughlin, the chief of staff for Sen. Dan Leahy (D-Lowell), students expressed their concern with HEB's proposed 10 percent fees cut.

"A 10 percent cut, what does that really mean?" said student Kelly Ryan, liberal arts/psychology. "I use student services like the deaf and hard of hearing...the cut is a drawback. I came to NECC because it offered more than other two-year schools. A 10 percent cut only makes a good headline."

Carmen Russell, student senate president, also voiced his worries and said Weld does not understand the students' view on the fees issue.

"The students understand what can happen if fees are cut and they are against it," he said. "We don't want a lower cost if we're receiving less of an education."

The other issues the group lobbied for included level funding for FY '97 with a 4 percent inflation adjustment, more funding for increased technology, the release of

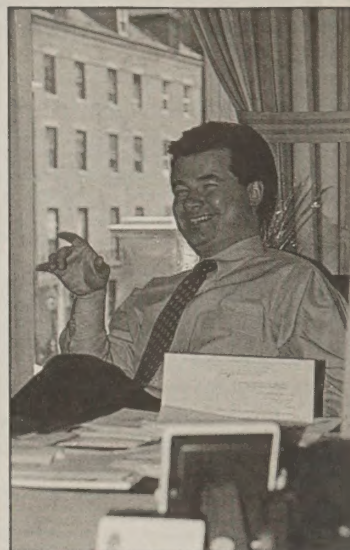
money for needed projects and revenue for collective bargaining agreements.

Chet Hawrylcw, assistant dean of humanities and communications, felt the participating students helped tremendously.

"The most valuable part of the day was the students' participation discussing the fee issue," he said. "For students to speak and stand up in favor of their own education, it was significant. We've all learned we must pay attention to our customers, the students."

Hawrylcw said the state representatives support a level-funded budget for the college and money for collective bargaining raises and said they support keeping fees with each college's trustees, "but one can only hope they'll act on what they say, and I believe they will."

Student participants included Ryan, Lisa DaVinci along with student senators Russell, Jason Faria, Mark Manning, Tara Bilodeau and Daniel Rajczyk.



Barrel of laughs

J. Grosky photo
BRIAN DEMPSEY, D-Haverhill supports keeping fees issues with the local board of trustees, above.

President David Hartleb and Bob McDonald, dean of academic services, enjoy a break in their schedule between meetings with state representatives, left.



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Marketing proposals move on to president

◆ Recommendations for increasing enrollment ready for action

By DANIELLE PAPLASKAS
Managing Editor

The enrollment management team came to a general consensus on which short- and long-term goals should be presented to President David Hartleb.

At the team's final meeting, Mary Wilson, dean of development, presented a compilation of feedback from the retention, marketing and enrollment committees. Information from two surveys sent to students and faculty by Tom Fallon, information services, was included as well.

When Wilson asked the committee members if any issues had been left out, a few members of the team raised concerns.

David Kelley, instructional support services assistant dean, said he feels the recommendations do not address the real problems.

"The marketing and retention lists are missing why students are here. We are not dealing with the learning and teaching process," he said.

Joseph LeBlanc, journalism program coordinator, said the recommendation needs to specifically address professional development.

"We need to examine what goes on in the classrooms. Teachers need to be informed about current teaching techniques as a possible retention tool," LeBlanc said.

Gene Wintner, all college council chairman, said he feels the faculty needs to be more involved in making these recommendations.

Mary Prunty, applied science associate dean, questioned why the mandatory computer degree audit was in the "other suggestions" column of the retention list. She feels this is a major component in improving student services.

Rather than hold another team meeting, and prolong submission of the recommendation to the president, Wilson said she will include these and any other concerns raised by faculty in a cover letter attached to the recommendations.

The list of suggestions were divided into three groups: marketing, recruiting and retention.

Each group was then subdivided into three sections: already under-way, short-term (within three months) and long-term

(six months or more).

Items such as radio and newspaper advertising, 1-800 phone line installation, telephone answering system improvement, a new college logo and planning for community-based events are in the "already under-way" column of the marketing list.

Short-term marketing plans include: 1) elimination of the three-tiered cost system; 2) creation of uniform business cards and badges for all employees with name and department; and 3) initiation of ads for cable television.

The long-term marketing plan goals are: 1) implement a new brochure with attention to format, content, timing etc.; 2) conduct comprehensive review of all academic programs to assess relevance, viability, flexibility of scheduling etc.; and 3) work on improving customer service and public relations.

Additional high school visits, an analysis of summer enrollment patterns and population, increasing the number of open houses and conducting alumni career panels are in the under-way column of the recruitment plan.

Short-term goals for the recruitment plan include: 1) hire high school counselors during the summer to assist with recruitment, especially for students with undefined plans for the fall; 2) heavy outreach to parents of high school students, including a view book; and 3) develop a system for collecting, tracking and following up on inquiries to the admissions process.

Long-term goals for recruitment include: 1) produce CD-ROM and improve/expand WEB page; 2) develop a plan to systematically utilize current student and alumni in recruitment; and 3) examine nature of demand for 8 to 8 staffing for admissions and financial aid offices, for example, to provide appropriate services.

Air conditioning of additional buildings (first floor of Spurr building already done), reducing the number of TBAs on master schedule and improvements in cafeteria/vending services are some of the already under-way items on the retention list.

Short-term retention goals include: 1) develop an early warning system for the fall; 2) continue to improve course cancellation system to make it more customer friendly; 3) reexamine and improve "orientation."

Long-term retention goals are: 1) to improve and strengthen comprehensive advising system and support the advising center; 2) work toward streamlining assessment through the registration process; 3) air condition all classrooms and labs.

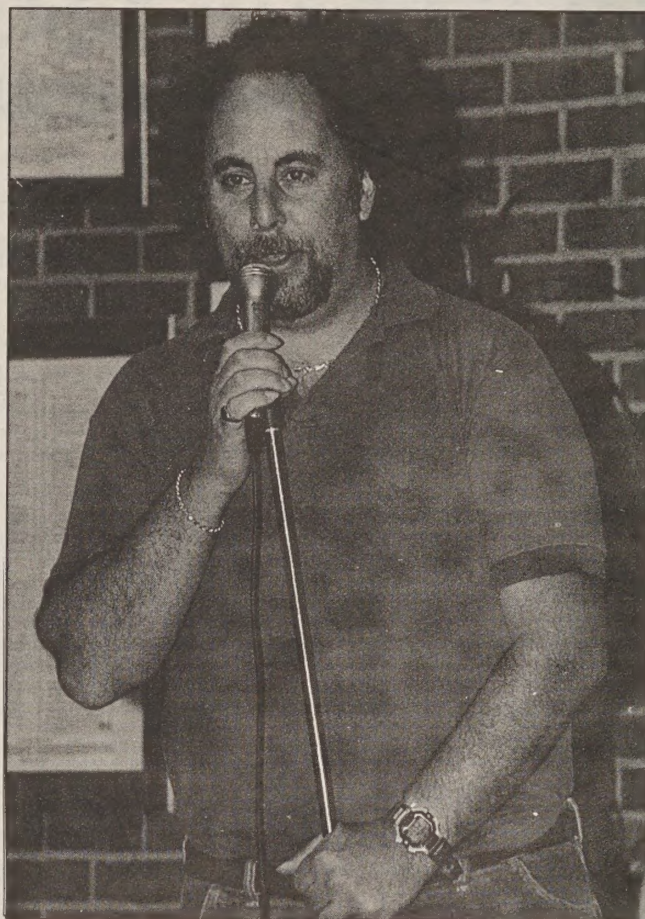
Student senator wins razor-close election

One vote decided which of three nominees would win a seat on NECC's Board of Trustees as this year's student representative.

Out of nearly 10,000 NECC students, 106 students voted in last week's election. Florencio Cuevas, student senator, won the election with 43 votes, just one more than the incumbent student representative

trustee, Lucy Gagnon, liberal arts student, who came in second with 42 votes.

Hugh Tolden, LPN nursing student and former student senate member, took 18 votes. Three write-ins took one vote a piece. They were: Jana Lattime, OSPA president, Mark Manning, senate treasurer, and Jason Faria, senate vice-president.



Coffee house comedy

J. Courter photo

COMEDIAN RICH Ceisler pays a visit to the student center on Wednesday, April 24. Students attending the free show enjoyed complimentary flavored coffees and various snack foods.

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Social sciences dept. to honor its students

◆ *Induction ceremony to be held in Bentley Library on May 6*

By ROBERT AHERN
Staff Reporter

The social sciences department will induct seven new members into its national honor society.

Psi Beta inducts new members at the end of every fall semester. In order to be inducted, a faculty member must recommend a student.

The new members include: Maranda Kuse, president; Denise Soboleski, vice president; Peter Livernois, secretary; Theresa Craig, treasurer; and Leslie Lowe, Leo Mahalaris and Joyce Meekins.

The Psi Beta ceremony has a 13-year history at NECC.

"Most of the inductees are graduating because of the requirements it takes to be inducted," said Paula Strangie, a faculty member of the behavioral sciences program.

The officers are chosen on the basis of the number of courses taken by each student and the student's overall grade point average.

"It's quite an honor. I was quite surprised when I was picked," Soboleski said. "Sandra DeVellis nominated me."

The honor soci-

ety also bases induction on what an individual does for the community.

When asked about her nomination, Kuse said,

"It was mostly based on my grades and the number of classes I took in psychology." Kuse is working for a psychotherapist and someday hopes to be one herself.

The ceremony starts at 6:30 p.m. on May 6 in the Bentley Library conference room. The installation will begin with a small reception followed by a welcome from Robert McDonald, dean of academic services. Beth Wilcoxson, assistant dean of one division of social sciences, will make opening remarks.

The new members will then be installed by Eduardo Ruiz and Paula Strangie, both faculty members in the behavioral sciences program.

There will be a short biographical reading for each student telling their accomplishments in psychology at NECC along with other information, such as career goals.

Students are automatically inducted into the psychology national honor society at any other college to which they transfer.



'Up With People'

File photo

THE MUSICAL troupe of 100 will be performing its newest production, "The Festival," at the Haverhill High gymnasium on Wednesday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. The group is a multicultural ensemble of young people who utilize their musical and theatrical talents.

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Confronting domestic violence

◆ Conference to teach causes, effects and treatments for abuse

By ELLEN COBURN
Staff Reporter

In an effort to combat the life threatening epidemic of domestic violence a conference has been scheduled at NECC on May 23.

The "Different Faces of Domestic Violence" conference will draw students, educators, healthcare professionals, law enforcement officials, social workers, clergy and other community members together to listen to advice and share ideas of experts on this escalating social problem.

The diagnostic tools, symptoms, manifestations, and intervention for this problem will be presented. Do we recognize the signs of abuse? Do we ignore the danger signals?

Are certain groups more likely to be targeted? Can we recognize someone who might be an abuser? Where do we seek treatment? What types of legal and medical intervention can we find in our communities?

This program is supported by grants from the Massachusetts Department of Education and Teen Dating Violence Prevention Programs.

It will feature various speakers and workshops. Legal, medical, psychological, religious and educational interventions will be discussed. The role of law enforcement agencies will be presented.

Discussions will include age, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation as possible triggers of domestic violence.

The conference is being organized by Judith Kamber, director of staff development, along with several Massachusetts professionals in various related fields.

The format of the conference includes introductory addresses and greetings by Kamber, NECC President David Hartleb and Haverhill District Court Judge, Kevin Herlihy. The keynote speaker will be Essex County District Attorney, Kevin Burke.

The conference will include the presentation of the play, *The Yellow Dress*. This brief play depicts the tragedy of dating violence. A young girl falls victim to her boyfriend's abusive behavior.

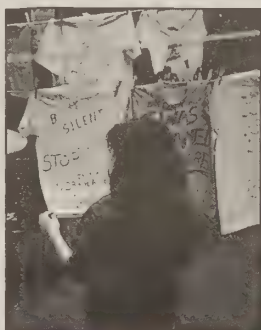
The play is presented throughout the area to audiences in middle and high schools as a tool to help students recognize the warning signs of abuse.

Suzanne Dubus, outreach coordinator for the Women's Crisis Center in Newburyport and Karen Wilk, program coordinator for the Partnership for Violence Prevention will address issues and feelings that the play evokes. The intensity of the production brings up many questions.

"It's OK to be moved by it," she said. "The victim is so identifiable. She speaks in the language of young love. Red flags are raised and danger signs are overlooked. She realizes at the end that there is nothing that she could have done that would not have made him angry."

A series of six workshops will be presented. *The Psychology of Batterers*, is a lecture that profiles the typical batterer. Doug Gaudette of the Greater Lawrence Mental

Battling ignorance



"Seventeen percent of restraining orders are violated. The most dangerous times for victims are when they break away from the controlling influence. Most restraining orders are violated in the first three months,"

Stephen Bocko

Health Center, Inc. plans to focus on the 10 most frequent reasons why men batter. If time permits, he says he will touch on intervention issues.

"Intervention and early education are the keys to affecting rates of domestic violence," Gaudette said.

Rev. Aram Marashlian of the Portland Street Baptist Church in Haverhill will discuss how clergy deal with domestic violence.

He said that he will present two true life case studies. One will deal with physical abuse. The other case will involve sexual abuse.

The panelists will share ideas and discuss the clergy's role. Marashlian said he will initiate a discussion of the boundaries, personal experiences that affect the outcome, and the political overtones of the cases. He will then share the actual output of the cases with the group.

"In 10 out of 10 seminars we are not exposed to case studies dealing with domestic violence," Marashlian said. "It's not taught. Often times when we are exposed, we do not know what to do, or we learn the hard way how to find resources."

He also describes the clergy's role as a delicate balance of knowing parameters. He said he is often approached as a confidante in abuse cases. He must be aware of legal issues and maintain his role as religious leader.

"It's not always easy. We have to maintain the person's dignity, their sense of self, and strive not to breach confidentiality," he said.

Another workshop that deals with gender, homosexuality and ethnicity will be presented by four professionals.

Sun He Gage is a rape crisis counselor at the Women's Resource Centers in Haverhill and Lawrence. She will be joined by Vilma Lora, a legal advocate at the YWCA of Greater Lawrence, Delania McCarter, director of Domestic Violence Program at Supportive Care, Inc., and Sgt. Norman Hill, liaison to Boston's gay and lesbian communities.

They will focus their workshop on a multicultural perspective.

"Policing Domestic Violence" will be the focus of another discussion that will include four panelists: Sgt. Gladys Gaines, domestic violence trainer at the Boston Police Academy, Mr. Stephen Bocko, chief probation officer for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Janine Bova, a victim witness advocate from the Essex county District Attorney's office, and Rachel Hickey Assistant District Attorney for Essex County.

Bocko says that he will discuss research that deals with the "red flags" that are indicators of a batterer. He said the most likely batterers fall into three categories that should raise red flags.

In order of potential for danger, they are 1) prior criminal record, 2) prior criminal record with violence 3) prior criminal record with violence and a history of the abuse of drugs and/or alcohol.

"Seventeen per cent of restraining orders are violated. The most dangerous times for victims are when they break away from the controlling influence. Most restraining orders are violated in the first three months," Bocko said.

Through a *Child's Eyes* will be the focus of a workshop presented by Ellen Ferland, LICSW from the Greater Lawrence Mental Health Center, Inc. and Patricia Dubus of the Better Homes Foundation.

This workshop will discuss issues relevant to a child's perception of violence in the home.

"The Medical Model Protocol for Physicians and Nurses will be presented by Dr. Jeanne Arnold from the Massachusetts Medical Society and Maureen Cullen, Emergency Room Nurse at Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport.

They will focus their discussion on issues relating to prevention, recognition and treatment of abuse.

"The message to be conveyed, particularly to physicians, but also other healthcare providers is to be aware of the prevalence of domestic violence, the variety and types of domestic violence, to ask questions of victims, to know the available community resources and to refer victims," Arnold said. "We should also be aware that we shouldn't judge victims by socioeconomic groups."

Maureen Cullen said that she hopes to convey a message that all emergency room patients should be screened for possible abuse.

She also said it's imperative for healthcare workers to ask the right questions and care for the emotional needs of the patient. These are essential elements in identifying and treating cases.

She is very concerned about the effects of children witnessing violence in their homes.

"There is a heightened awareness of the possibility of abuse on all patients," Cullen said.

Information regarding this conference and registration materials may be obtained by contacting Kamber at 374-3955 or Ann Lampron at 374-3860.

Students offered overnight trip to Nova Scotia

◆ Students can enjoy food, music and friends at party for graduates

By JESSICA LATTIME
Staff Reporter

Student activities and the student senate invite NECC students, faculty, staff and fellow alumni to an all-night celebration cruise to Nova Scotia. The 475 ft. cruise ship embarks on its 23-hour journey Saturday afternoon, May 18, and returns Sunday night, May 19.

Student activities director Aurthur Signorelli explained his motivation for or-

ganizing the cruise.

"Over the years, I've seen too many students not go to commencement because they are transferring to another school, and they don't get a sense of closure or a feeling of accomplishment for their hard work."

The cruise costs \$89 for graduates and second year students who are transferring. For other guests, the rate is \$119 per person. This cruise is directed at 1996 graduates, and they are receiving a discounted rate sponsored by student activities and the student senate.

"We are not making any profit; it is actually costing money. This is 100 percent for the students," Signorelli said.

He explained the cost difference is to cover bus transportation from the Haver-

hill campus to Portland, Maine. The fee includes meals, a cabin and a variety of entertainment.

The Prince of Fundy Cruise will provide a live band and a DJ for everyone's listening pleasure. Also available is karaoke, a floor show, and a daily cartoon or movie. Adults over 18 can enjoy the slot machines, and those over 21 are invited to try their luck at the tables in the casino or at the bar.

Students from other colleges will be sharing the 1,500 person cruise ship; therefore it is imperative that anyone interested should get their money in and reserve a spot.

The payment deadline is May 10. For more information, contact the student activities office.

Briefs

Senate member named to board

NECC student Jason Faria was appointed to board of directors of the Assisted Living Center in Salisbury.

Faria, a Fremont, N.H. resident, is a business transfer student at NECC and serves as the vice-president of the student senate.

Last year, the student activities office launched a program that places student senators on boards within the communities that NECC serves. The goal is to enable students to use within their communities the leadership skills they acquire from serving on the senate.

Faria is the second student to participate in the program.

"Frequently, we ask ourselves what the practical applications of some of our college experiences will be," Faria said.

"While we have already seen the value of our leadership training on improving campus life and building coalitions with faculty and the administration, this opportunity to serve on the board of directors will allow me to use the skills I've acquired in a practical, 'real world' setting.

I'm very optimistic about the amount of benefit I'll receive from this experience."

This assisted Living Center Inc. is a Salisbury-based private, non-profit corporation that develops, owns and manages affordable housing with particular emphasis on meeting the health care needs of elders and other populations with disabilities.

The ALC is in the process of opening a new facility in Fall River.

Faria was also named regional director for the National Association of Students for Higher Education.

NASHE represents students regarding issues related to federal higher education policies being accessible and as affordable as possible to all student associations.

"It's an honor to be named the New England regional director of NASHE," Faria said. "Although it's a new organization, its strength is in its growing student involvement and focus on federal financial aid issues."

Seatbelt program helps save lives

The city of Lawrence has one of the highest per capita rates of car crash injuries in the state. In 1994, almost one in 50 people were injured in car crashes. In January 1996, almost three injuries occurred a day.

Safety belts and safety seats can protect children and adults from severe injuries, but less than one in three drivers in Lawrence buckles up.

Project Safe Ride, the Lawrence Police Department, NECC and the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau devised a program that combines increased enforcement of the state's seatbelt law with increased education.

The Governor's Highway Safety Bureau awarded the Lawrence Police Department a grant to perform three roadside checks for unrestrained children, under the age of 12, in moving vehicles.

The checks involve written warnings and citations and will begin in the spring.

These groups developed a course for first time seatbelt law violators. If a violator attends the class before his or her hearing date, a fine will be waived.

"The class is designed to dramatically increase people's awareness of the dangers of not using safety belts and child safety seats," said Peter Carnevale, Project Safe Ride coordinator.

"This arrangement with Project Safe Ride and NECC offers a program which nicely links enforcement with education," said Lawrence Police Chief Robert Hayden.

NECC sports: keeping



Paddle battle

KEVIN HARRINGTON readies for the return of Ian McConnell's hit, using the gym's ping pong tables. The gym lobby also has billiard tables, foosball and video games.

S. Ferren photo

California sets the stage

◆ **L. A. college has \$2.25 million sports budget, offering 20 intercollegiate teams, numerous classes**

By JASON B. GROSKY
Editor

While sports play partial roles in the lives of some NECC students, the athletic department at El Camino College, a two-year institution located in Los Angeles, often engulfs the lives of its athletes.

El Camino, located 4 miles from the Pacific Coast, has 20 sports teams in addition to maintaining facilities unimaginable to those in the Massachusetts Community College system.

The college has a 15,000-seat football stadium for its nationally-ranked football team, according to James Schwartz, ECC's dean for the division of health, exercise science and sport.

"We generally draw 7,000 people to a game, but it depends on who we play," Schwartz said. "We fill it when we play our big rival, Long Beach. We're very strong in football and lost to Long Beach in the state finals last year, 40-38. We finished 9-2 and they went on to win the national championship."

But drawing even 7,000 people to see a two-year school's sports team? While NECC teams often draw an audience in the single digits, sports are taken more seriously by California legislators than in the Commonwealth. The cost for running ECC's athletic department and its programs hovers around \$2.25 million, an unheard of figure for two-year colleges in the Northeast.

Schwartz said the tremendous population of the Los Angeles area never leaves his sports teams short of players. He said approximately 120 students sign on for the football program. While only two-thirds stick with the team, it leaves the squad with 80 players.

"With such a heavily populated area, we have a

lot of good athletes with a good faculty and good coaching - we never have a problem suiting up enough players," Schwartz said. "Many kids come here specifically for our athletic program; they go where they feel they'll get the best experience - the athletes come here automatically."

Professional football players Derrick Deese of the San Francisco 49ers, and the Denver Bronco's Erik Kramer attended ECC. Schwartz said a number of his football players later headline at four-year football powerhouses. Among these players include one of ECC's wide receivers, who has signed on to play for the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor next year.

In addition, he said next year's starting quarterback at Brigham Young University headlined at ECC, while other alumni went onto play at USC, UCLA, the University of Arizona, Arizona State among other four-year institutions on full football scholarships.

In addition to the football stadium, El Camino's facilities include two indoor pools, two gymnasiums, 10 tennis courts, independent fields for softball, baseball and soccer, a running track, 11 racquetball courts (six indoors), eight volleyball courts, a free weights facility and two rooms equipped with nautilus equipment.

"We have an absolutely beautiful campus with great facilities for our program," Schwartz said. "I'm not sure if we're among the top (two-year) programs in the country, but we are definitely among the top in California. I can guarantee that."

In addition to the "average" sports teams, El Camino offers water polo, swimming, tennis, track and field and volleyball to both male and female students. In addition, the college has cheerleaders and a pep band for home football and basketball games.

Schwartz said over 450 students participate on the sports teams while another 6,500 take part in college's health and fitness programs; among these are 135 physically disabled students who are in an adaptive program.

The college offers classes in badminton, boxing, fencing and defense tactics. Schwartz said all El Camino students are required to take two athletic

See CALIFORNIA, page 14

◆ **Massachusetts two-year colleges with more to offer still suffer from lack of student involvement**

By GEORGE R. SCIONE
Editorial Staff

Some community colleges have made positive strides in athletics over the past few years, growing to meet students needs, whether it is intercollegiate or intramural sports.

"I believe in athletics and recreation," said Peter Della Monica, athletic director of North Shore Community College. "It's a part of our soul; recreation should be a part of people's lives."

North Shore supplies its students with four choices of intercollegiate sports: men's fall baseball, men's basketball (fall and early spring), as well as women's softball and men's baseball in the spring. North Shore also offers a cheerleading program that coexists with the men's basketball season.

Across the state, community colleges like North Shore supply a service most students deem important. Take, for example, Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester, which similar to North Shore offers a variety of sports.

Most notably, Quinsigamond offers both a men and women's basketball. Quinsigamond also offers baseball and golf as varsity sports, but that's only part of the big picture.

"You gotta do what you have to do to be physically and mentally fit," said Quinsigamond athletic director Barry Glinski, speaking of students wanting to participate on the field and in the classroom.

How does NECC fit in with these colleges? Over the years, Northern Essex has offered a variety of sports, although the past few years have seen a slight turn for the worst.

NECC does have one major supporter, Della Monica.

"Northern Essex Community College is better than some four-year schools," he said. "It's hard to see why people aren't supporting those who are trying to make it even better."

Of the community colleges in Massachusetts, it is relatively easy to see what programs interest students. Basketball is the dominant sport in colleges across the Commonwealth, with baseball close behind. One two-year school is breaking the barriers of common sports.

Idaho: more than pot

◆ **Two-year college wins prestigious award for all-around sports excellence within athletic department**

By JASON B. GROSKY
Editor

Out West, in the rural state of Idaho, a two-year institution romps in a comparison of its program with any community college in the Commonwealth.

North Idaho College, located in Coeur d'Alene, is arguably among the top three schools in Region 18, the Scenic West in the NJCAA Division I bracket.

"We have a top notch athletic program in an extremely competitive region," said Jim Headly, athletic director.

NIC's located in what's known as the "pan-handle" of the state - 30 miles east of Washington state and 90 south of the Canadian border.

The athletic department has one of the top wrestling programs in NJCAA history, with an unprecedented 10 national championships and 17 consecutive years atop their conference.

"We are recognized as one of the best across the country," Headly said.

In addition to wrestling success, NIC's men's

Compare

Editor's note: The following is a comparison of the athletic programs of six Massachusetts two out-of-state colleges.

Greenfield C.C.

Cape Cod C.C.

Holyoke C.C.

North Shore C.C.

NECC

Quinsigamond C.C.

North Idaho College

El Camino (Calif.)

After years of little change, Roxbury Community College made a difference in enrollment.

This realization allowed the college to have a stronghold at Roxbury's stronghold.

In its first year of operation, Track and Athletic Center for many schools, both men and women.

There is still the major problem: not students will participate in facilities or a varied set of sports.

Roxbury's athletic director should provide what the students need to either do or don't want to go to school.

"There's a basic academic and athletic scholarship that doesn't want to go to school if the students want to participate in sports."

The key word is apathy, that comes to the forefront of the foreboding apathy that keeps students away.

"I'm not sure it's apathy," Glinski said. "People are so busy that they don't have time for two things, like classes and sports."

Glinski also feels this apathy, students just have to work, whether it be a full-time job or part-time.

and women's basketball in the national championship country team took the D. Nike Cup, given to the college finish for men's and women's.

NIC also runs their athletic program on an approximate \$900,000 budget, which includes salaries, scholarships and travel costs.

NIC offers men's and women's cross country, track, men's and women's volleyball and women's soccer.

Does North Idaho have a recruiting or retaining problem? "Absolutely not! We have some students away because of our programs."

In addition to the college's programs, they are still looking for more students.

"We're now receiving a large number of inquiries to add in women's football programs," he said.

On the flip-side, NECC's health and fitness, while not as big as the others, have any. Headly said the college is pushing for funding to participate in the program.

NIC travels all over the country, with NJCAA teams in Indiana, Wyoming, Utah, Oregon and Idaho two-year colleges.

pace or falling behind?

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See SPORTS, page 14

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◆ While NECC offers four varsity teams, four community colleges have no athletic squads at all

By JASON B. GROSZY
Editor

The role of athletics at community colleges in Massachusetts differs from school to school. While some put a large emphasis on sports, other colleges do not offer any athletic teams, neither intercollegiate nor intramurals.

NECC offers four sports open to students with at least 12 credits and a GPA higher than 2.0 for the previous semester. Men's and women's basketball, men's baseball and women's volleyball are offered as varsity sports.

In May 1995, Carl Beal, athletic director, decided to eliminate the college's men's soccer and women's softball team, cutting the number of intercollegiate sports by one-third.

Despite the condition of the school's baseball field, which has poor drainage and puddles, Beal stuck with NECC baseball.

This semester, the men's basketball team became a club sport after lack of players. Only four remained after the winter vacation. In turn, a large portion of the team's \$8,800 appropriation went toward a club sport with varsity ineligible players.

"When we went to a club, we got more students out for the team," Beal said. "Instead of dropping the sport in the middle of the year, we opened it up to everyone and got more players. Whether it's a club or varsity sport, it'll cost the same."

The college runs an athletic department budget of \$68,000, including two \$16,000 salaries for staffers. The four varsity sports total \$26,800. The college

PEOPLE'S PICK

Editor's note: The following is a team-by-team cost for each varsity sport at NECC.

Sport	Allocation
Men's Basketball	\$9,000
Women's Basketball	\$6,800
Men's Baseball	\$6,000
Women's Volleyball	\$5,000
Overall cost	\$26,800

also has facilities for students wanting to play billiards, ping pong or work out in the fitness center.

The college's pact with the Lawrence YMCA allows NECC students the opportunity to participate in the activities offered at the Y, including rock climbing and mountain biking.

But other two-year schools in Massachusetts offer less for athletics than NECC, and some offer none.

In response to the question, "What does your college offer for athletic teams," Diane Hamel, the fitness center coordinator at Bristol Community College in Fall River, said, "That's a really brief answer - we don't have anything, zip, zero."

She said the fitness center offers basketball, coed softball and volleyball on a limited basis, but the programs hardly draw enough individuals to form a team. But having a sufficient number of players is not the only problem.

"We don't have a gymnasium or indoor facilities," Hamel said. "We have an outdoor tennis and

basketball court, but those can obviously only be used during good weather. It's difficult trying to set a schedule playing outside, because there's only a short period during the year when you can play outside. You can't play basketball in the snow."

While BCC offers little for sports, Greenfield Community College offers no sports of any kind - neither athletics nor intramurals.

"With the funding problems and state budget cuts, we diminished the athletic department," said Merryl Sackin, GCC's director of student life. "Some colleges cut drama, some cut other programs, we cut sports."

Sackin said the college decided to cut athletics as opposed to laying off staff or decreasing other services. She said it was not an easy decision and did not know how much money it saved.

"We had a wonderful sports program, one of the best in the state and our athletic director was named director of the year for four years in a row," Sackin said.

GCC had offered eight sports teams, but cut them entirely, leaving the school without even intramural programs.

Sackin said the college does have a fitness center for students interested in weight lifting and cardiovascular exercise. The college does have a field, but no gymnasium facilities.

At Berkshire Community College, in Pittsfield, one intercollegiate sport is offered along with some intramural programs.

BCC's only varsity sport is basketball, in addition to offering coed and men's basketball, along with men's and coed volleyball.

Dane Olsted, BCC athletic director, said the college is looking into men's soccer and women's cross-country for the fall. He said the athletic department uses \$15,535 for sports programs and \$7,901 for recreational services.

Among other community colleges, Cape Cod, Middlesex and Mt. Wachusett have no varsity sports.

Athletic director responds to issues concerning NECC sports programs

◆ Carl Beal hopes more students participate in programs, seeking ways to make it a reality

By JASON B. GROSZY
Editor

Q: What steps are you and the athletic department taking to increase student involvement in NECC athletics?

A: We have summer basketball program with 1,200 students. We gave students information on the college. This has great potential for the future.

Here we have 1,200 students coming on this campus each week to play basketball. We're going to really make a big effort, not just for athletics - we want to let them know what NECC can do for them for academic purposes, for student clubs and for athletics. To let them really know what's going on.

Q: What teams are you expecting to have next year?

A: I'd like to continue what we have. We've cut back. We had six teams and now we only have four. Hopefully, the budget will allow us to maintain the teams.

Q: What steps can the athletic department take to retain players between semesters?

A: It's not recruitment that's the problem, it's retention and that's the same problem we're having on campus now and why the college is down 16 percent. I sent Mike Smith (assistant athletic director) to a workshop on "planning for total success in athletics and academics" which shows retention management.

We're going to implement a mandatory study hall for our athletes. We also have a report card system where the student athletes must get a report card filled out by their teachers four times a semester saying how the athlete's doing, what their grades are and in what they need help.

Q: How do you plan to implement the study hall system with the athletes?

A: We have practice every day from 3-5 p.m., and

one of those days we'll meet in the classroom. We're willing to sacrifice a practice day to make sure that the students pass their courses, stay eligible and stay academically sound.

Q: How do you explain the men's basketball team becoming a club sport?

A: Two years ago, the athletic department went back to ground zero. We had a new men's basketball coach (Dick Steele) this year, it was a wake up call for him. He thought people would be flocking out for the team.

That's not the way it works. That's why he's now gone out and recruited 150 students he's trying to bring to NECC.

We had some students drop out and others weren't academically eligible. We're always going to lose a few that way.



File photo

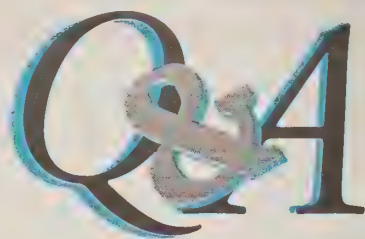
CARL BEAL, A.D.

it up to everyone and got more players. Whether it's a club or varsity sport, it'll cost the same.

Q: What is the difference between being a varsity or club sport?

A: Being a varsity sport gives the student an opportunity to be seen by four-year institutions. In fact, every player on our women's basketball team has received invitations from four-year schools.

Whether they'll get offered a scholarship or go there, I don't know. To go club all of the time, you run the risk of other teams in the league not wanting to play you. You'd be lucky to get a full schedule of games.



Q: How do you justify spending the money for a club sport with students that do not carry enough credits or are ineligible?

A: There are other clubs on this campus without academic requirements. We don't want to go club, but I can justify it by saying that more students get involved.

Q: NECC's a nontraditional college. Would the college be better suited with intramural programs rather than intercollegiate teams?

A: The college only has two free hours for classes a week, one on Monday and the other on Friday. With that few hours, you'd never be able to do it.

Q: What if it was set up in a pick-up game format?

A: We do that everyday here at the gym for basketball. You can jump right into a game.

Q: How successful is the basketball pick-up game program?

A: Very successful. You can go down anytime of the week with both hoops being used and players shooting while waiting on the side.

Q: If it is successful for basketball, why wouldn't it be successful for other sports?

A: It's a walk-on thing. For basketball, it's a universal sport and you can walk down and play by yourself. But take soccer - you're waiting for a group.

You might not get enough for a game. You can't play one-on-one soccer. There's more basketball talent on the campus, and they know there's a gym to come down to.

Q: Can the college draw more attendance to home games?

A: The games are free. If we had excellent, undefeated teams with accolades, then there would be interest. We've had good teams in the past, but it's been up and down. We're trying to bring those days back to NECC.

Q: Are intercollegiate sports right for NECC?

A: I think intercollegiate sports is right for any college. There are some real values you can get only from sports: teamwork, dedication, sacrificing - these are skills people use in their everyday life.

California dreamin'

◆ continued from page 13
department classes before reaching their associate's degree.

ECC has two full-time athletic trainers, five equipment attendants and a lab technician in the fitness center.

Schwartz said nearly \$25,000 is generated through voluntary student fees, while

Doing Their Share

"We can do a lot for the kids in the city. We can save some and put them back into the community as decent people. We have some real poor kids and troublemakers in which a coach can take some of these tough kids and work them..."

James Schwartz

the athletic department holds an annual golf tournament which often gathers between \$50,000-\$100,000 for ECC sports.

The key to a good athletic department is having good, caring employees, willing not only to work within the sports program, but to participate in all facets of the college, Schwartz said.

"We have employees within my department that are on numerous boards and counsels across the college," he said. "We encourage our workers to do so; we don't want them just affiliated with the sports department, we want them to help make a difference to the whole school."

Like NECC, El Camino does not offer student scholarships. Student/athletes participate based on their self-interest and motivation.

The cost for attending two-year colleges in California is much less than in Massachusetts. While full time NECC students spend approximately \$1,200 per semester, ECC charges about \$350. Schwartz feels the role athletics play at his institution is important in helping mold the lives of their students.

"We can do a lot for the kids in the city. We can save some and put them back into the community as decent people," he said.

"We have some real poor kids and troublemakers in which a coach can take some of these tough kids and work them to do a good job some other's can't push them into. It takes time to establish such a legitimate system, but you must get everyone involved."



Just for kicks

NECC HAS operated without a soccer team for the past year. Carl Beal, athletic director, does not expect it to return anytime soon.

File photo

Some two-year colleges push athletics

◆ continued from page 12

Apathy seems to be used more as an excuse than a solution. In schools such as North Shore, Quinsigamond and Roxbury, where athletics is strong, students face the same problems as those at NECC. Whether it is work or household responsibility, apathy is the reason why.

Aside from involvement, some students don't feel as comfortable playing inter-collegiately.

So most schools not only field a variety of inter-collegiate teams, but also offer intramural activities.

Roxbury, North Shore and Quinsigamond offer plenty of intramural and recreational programs for students, and in some instances the intramurals have a chance to become varsity teams.

Track, volleyball, basketball and tennis highlight intramurals at Roxbury, while North Shore and Quinsigamond take it one or two steps further.

Between the two schools, many op-

tions are available: golf tournaments, 3-point shoot-outs, table tennis, air hockey, pool, foosball, soccer, aerobics, handball, swimming, ping pong, racquetball, and Quinsigamond even offers a walking club.

"You have to meet the needs of the students you serve," said Della Monica. "You have to do whatever is beneficial for the students."

One problem that arises in giving many options athletic wise is game or tournament sites. Roxbury, which doesn't have a baseball diamond, has a solution that works well for most schools in big city areas.

"We have a partnership with the city of Boston," said Thomas. "We made a suggestion that was accepted as long as we are involved in the upkeep."

Quinsigamond has no worry with field space, as the school utilizes a gym, pool, two racquetball courts, baseball diamond and soccer field.

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Walks raise funds for local charities

◆ Legs go to work for worthy causes like AIDS prevention

By JOSH PHILLIPS
Staff Reporter

Thinking about taking a walk and getting some fresh air on a spring Sunday afternoon? Well, you can take a walk with a group of other people while raising money for charity.

Three walks are scheduled for the spring:

the Sports for Life Walk, which includes a 5-mile walk and a 50-mile bike ride; a 10-kilometer AIDS Pledge Walk; and a 20-mile Walk for Hunger.

"I think all of the walks are for really good causes," said Kelly Sullivan, coordinator of student activities in Lawrence. "AIDS, cancer and hunger are three significant things in the '90s."

Sullivan began working at the college in January and was involved with the AIDS Action Committee.

The college has offered to participate in fund-raising activities. In 1994, the school raised over \$9,000 for the AIDS walk.

"It's a simple way to show some support, not only for people who are sick, but for family members who suffered the loss. It shows them you really care," she said.

Sullivan said it would be nice to see students showing some support. Even a \$5 donation can make a difference and will show the community that the school really cares.

Student senate member, Dan Rajczyk, helped out with communications for the last AIDS walk.

"I just want to help out and raise money for people with the virus," he said.

The Sports for Life Walk, sponsored by Holy Family Hospital in Methuen, allows organizations raising over \$1,000 to keep 50 percent of all money raised.

"This would be a great opportunity for clubs or organizations to raise funds," Sullivan said. "Women's basketball, respiratory therapy group and the student senate are all participating in this walk."

Fred Moakley, in his first semester as a senator, is coordinating the Walk for Hunger at the college.

"Kelly Sullivan offered it to me, so I just ran with it and figured I could get people motivated to walk," he said.

Fred Moakley

"Kelly Sullivan offered it to me, so I just ran with it and figured I could get people motivated to walk."

The Walk for Hunger will be held Sunday, May 5, in Boston and is 20 miles long.

"If we get enough people to sign up, transportation will be provided to Boston, so the more people the better," Sullivan said.

The Sports for Life Walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 19, in Methuen.

The AIDS Pledge Walk is Sunday, June 2, in Boston.

Those interested in participating in the walks this spring should contact Sullivan at the Haverhill campus Tuesdays and Thursdays at ext. 3731, and at the Lawrence campus Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at ext. 4203.

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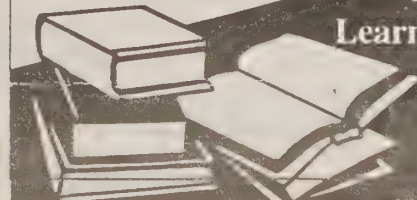
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◆ *Help is provided for women adjusting to college life*

By DONNA SIMPSON
Staff Reporter

The number of women 35 and above returning to school doubled between 1982 and 1992, and this trend continues.

Joan Patrakis, director, women's resource network, said she noticed women of all ages in her class called Women and Society.

"It didn't make any difference," she said. "We could all relate to the issues and to each other. We had so much to talk about, we could never get to all of it in class."

Patrakis asked Selma Singer, professor, department of behavioral sciences, if there was a place on campus where women could get together and talk.

"At the time there wasn't," she said, "but she encouraged me to do something about it. In the spring of 1992, with the help of other students, the Women's Resource Club

was created and Selma was our adviser.

"The club met once a week," Patrakis said, "but soon we felt we needed a place accessible to drop in anytime, not just once a week. As a result, I approached former President John Dimitry and asked if he would give us a room. After approving our proposal, he gave us a room and a budget."

Since that time, the club became the Women's Resource Network located in the library, A-337. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Founded in 1992, the WRN doesn't offer counseling, but it offers a place to unwind, make new friends, and receive tutoring, Patrakis said.

"The students know we care about them, support them, and encourage them to stay in school," she said.

The WRN also serves as a source for information concerning support systems and resources available at the college and in the community.

In fall 1994, women made up 55 percent of college students across the country. At two-year colleges, 58 percent of all students are women. NECC itself has a student body comprised of 67 percent women.

Priorities and family structure have



Enjoy the chat

J. Courter photo

WOMEN DISCUSS their issues and their lives with Joan Patrakis, director, Women's Resource Network.

changed. Economics have forced women to become bread winners. Equal pay is still not a fact of life and education is one way to correct that condition.

By the time women return to college,

they have already dealt with gender-related inequalities and have had to walk through these and other crises playing a role. But today, the goal to be educated is what motivates many women.

Support for students with learning disabilities

◆ *A group forms for those wanting help coping with attention deficit disorder*

By SIERRA FRANK
Staff Reporter

College life is always a stressful experience. Papers to write, exams to pass and countless little details all add up to a lot of hard work.

For many students, the difficulties of college are compounded by a learning disability, attention deficit disorder or a brain injury.

For these people, there is a new support group on campus. The group, organized by Christine Caldwell, learning disabled specialist, meets Thursdays, from noon to 1 p.m.

It is open only to students who suffer from a documented learning disorder and students must meet with Caldwell before attending a meeting of the support group.

"I'm trying to keep it skills-focused so they can walk away with a useful idea,"

Caldwell said.

Susan Martin, note taking coordinator, will offer a "mini-presentation" on improving note taking skills so students can get the most out of the time they spend in class.

While many support groups are "chat sessions," Caldwell maintains a structure within each meeting.

"I try to keep it focused a little, so it's not totally open-ended," she said. "The idea is to really, by structuring a little, focus on skills that could be useful to students."

The group does not focus entirely on improving college skills.

"There seems to be a lot of need to talk about how life in general, intrudes upon the need to work in college," she said.

Students discuss strategies on how to improve time management and the importance of learning to say no to taking on too many commitments at once.

The group consists of six students.

Last week's meeting was especially small, which Caldwell attributes to the crunch of the semester ending and students needing extra time to stay caught up with school work.

Caldwell said despite the low attendance, the group has great potential, and even six is a large turnout for a group this special-

ized.

The students who do attend are a very mixed group.

"This reflects the variety that we have here in the student body anyway," Caldwell said.

Still, this variety sometimes creates tension, especially since it becomes difficult to take care of everyone's interests.

"The hard thing about the group is that students are coming from all over the place," Caldwell said.

"It is a group that has just started, so while some people felt really comfortable, others weren't ready yet to add to the discussion," Martin said.

She also said that was expected, and people don't need to participate. Some people get a lot out of it just by listening. Caldwell encourages students who have met with her already to attend meetings.

She also said while students must be screened through her before attending these meetings, students who feel they may be affected by LD, ADD or a Brain Injury should see her in OSD.

"If there are students who think they might have one of these conditions, I can help them find a place to be evaluated," she said.



Getting it right

File photo

CHRISTINE CALDWELL bringing students together to solve problems.



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'Celtic Pride' fouls out early

◆ *Nonexistent plot and abrupt ending make new comedy a joke*

By GEORGE R. SCIONE
Editorial Staff

Years of glory on the old Boston Garden parquet slip through the cracks, destroying any remnants of "Celtic pride."

Not since the 1986 Celtics has there been reason to cheer for a team. The Lakers-Celtics rivalry of Larry Bird, Kevin McHale and Robert Parrish pitted against Magic Johnson, James Worthy and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was hostile, yet entertaining. However, this flick lacks those attributes.

The film opens at the beginning of the 1995 season, and the Celtics find themselves forming a new rivalry. The Lakers are no longer in sight, and the Utah Jazz have erupted into the spotlight, led by the hot-handed point guard Lewis Scott. Well, that's what *Celtic Pride* would like the viewer to believe.

Scott, played by Damon Wayans, has to deal with a Boston plumber, Jimmy Flaherty (Dan Aykroyd) and a gym teacher, Mike O'Hara, played by actor and director Daniel Stern.

Most of the movie takes place in the hallowed halls of Boston Garden, but swings from scenic sight to scenic sight around the Beantown area. From the Roxy to a Charlestown basketball court, the movie displays what is great about the area. If you feel like sightseeing without having to walk for miles on end, take a trip to your local theater and walk from the car to the theater seat.

Sure, *Celtic Pride* incorporates everything relatively true about New England sports fans, such as screaming at the television expecting it to alter the course of events or even praying for a win. The movie lacks drive, however.

The only bright spot in this cheesy excuse for a feature film is during the sixth

Movie Reviews

game when an old friend returns from California for the series. Chris McCarthy, played by Darrell Hammond, is an old bar buddy who fled the area for two reasons: first, he was offered a job out West, and secondly, it seems as though he was forced from the area because he is the "bad luck guy."

McCarthy, who apparently caused Bill Buckner's misfortune (ie. the game six ground ball in the '86 World Series), had to flee the state, similar to how Buckner eventually did. McCarthy shows up at the game (game six) with the Celtics up by about 20 points, and with Scott missing every shot.

But as McCarthy stands there, waving and smiling to Flaherty and O'Hara, the Celtics begin to struggle inside, as the second half turns in another direction. Scott begins to sink all his shots and the Jazz take a commanding lead.

Jimmy stands up and hollers for all to hear, "Chris, I think you should leave." When McCarthy complains about the \$300 ticket and says, "Why should I leave," Jimmy attacks, "You know why, you're the bad luck guy. Hey, everyone, he's the bad luck guy. Remember the Red Sox in the '86 Series, Buckner stopped every ball until you made an appearance near our seats."

This is the true fanatical sense of life: prayer, superstition and belief that what you say will happen.

Other than this moment, the movie offers no semblance of good screenwriting or directing. Basically, the plot is simplistically drawn out, which leaves everyone who paid the \$7.25 wondering, who wrote this, a 5-year-old?

The movie starts with O'Hara and Flaherty cheering against rival player, Scott. Then, it shows these same fanatics kidnapping Scott to ensure the Celtics win the championship. When the rival player (Wayans) escapes from their grasp, he warns them of jail unless they cheer for him at the seventh game — so they do.

Please, if these guys were such fanatics



Three's company

DAN AYKROYD, Damon Wayans and Daniel Stern star as obsessive Boston Celtics fans turned kidnappers in the new comedy, 'Celtic Pride.'

Photo courtesy of Hollywood Pictures

they would have gladly gone to jail for one last chance to cheer the Celtics to victory. Every die-hard New England fan would have told this arrogant player to buzz off and take the punishment like a true fanatic.

Aykroyd, Stern and Wayans share funny moments with themselves rather than the audience, but scenes in which comedy shines through even the slightest bit are dry and overkilled.

What truly took away from the realistic charm intended was the filming of the game situations. These shots are too crisp and clear, not to mention the fact that Wayans looks nothing like a professional athlete.

What is the point of this movie? A whimpering final goodbye to the treasured Garden, or maybe just the final nail in its coffin. It seems the latter is most appropriate for this flick, which had potential, but ends abruptly.

Besides a final look into the Garden, and cameo roles by Larry Bird, Bob Cousy, Marv Alberts, Bill Walton and, well let's just say Dieon Sanders fans will be happy, too. This so-called movie can easily wait for the VHS tape.

Observer Stars

★ out of ★★★★★ for the new comedy 'Celtic Pride' directed by Tom DeCerchio, starring Dan Aykroyd, Damon Wayans and Daniel Stern

New film no substitute for entertainment

◆ *Berenger's latest role comes off as a poor Hollywood formula flick*

By CARMEN RUSSELL
Staff Reporter

The *Substitute* is a fine example of Hollywood's action movie expertise. How they continue to so capably use their action film formula should mystify the most creative minds in the entertainment industry.

The formula is quite simple, actually. Take a redundant, unbelievable and bad plot, add plenty of fight scenes and throw in actors. Good actors are not necessary.

Tom Berenger plays Shale, a mercenary who might have just stepped out of *Rambo* into the overdone *Lean On Me* scenario. Not much time passes before Shale and his band-for-hire turn a Miami high school into a battle ground in which Shale goes head-to-head with the principal.

The *Substitute* reeks with attempts to follow a *Dangerous Minds* storyline, yet has an explosive ending complete with an arsenal of machine guns and bazookas.

The film begins when Shale and his team finish their latest mission in Cuba and return to the United States without another job available. Shale goes to visit his high school history teacher girlfriend, Jane Hetzko (Diane Venora). When Jane is attacked by one of her student's henchman, Shale goes undercover as her substitute to find who is responsible. Shale soon singles



Cold eyes

Photo courtesy of Orion
TOM BERENGER in 'The Substitute.'

out student Juan Lacas, the leader of the Kings of Destruction. The local gang becomes entangled in an elaborate drug smuggling ring run by Lacas, the neighborhood kingpin and the principal, who is also running for mayor.

Along the way, however, Shale becomes attached to his students and the teaching. After slamming a couple of unruly kids into desks, Shale preaches against violence and miraculously gets the class to discuss how there is no future in gangs.

After recounting his Vietnam experiences, how many people he has killed and how he got shot, half of the students get up to show their own scars and bullet wounds. Later, Shale reveals to Jane how wonderful it feels to teach.

After the bad guys are established, the plot becomes predictable. The final meleé is no treat and the climax lacks any suspense. No transitions exist between scenes in what becomes a collage of violent pictures. None of the roles requires any real acting and the cast seems to have been selected with that in mind.

Berenger, whose credits include *Platoon*,

Born On the Fourth of July, and his *Looking for Mr. Goodbar* debut, spends little time acting and most of the movie punching, kicking and glaring.

Although the intention is for him to cultivate an inspiration about enlightening young minds, he fails to convince the audience he has any concern whatsoever for the events unfolding around him. Berenger takes the rough and weary persona too far and loses any other characteristic that might build Shale.

Ernie Hudson, who plays principal Rolle, shouldn't have even tried to act out his role. From the beginning, Hudson tries to define Rolle as a menacing yet charismatic school master who grips his school with an iron fist of control. Rolle's performance can't compare with his earlier work in *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle* and *Weeds*. Unfortunately for Rolle, *The Substitute's* script and direction doesn't allow for any real talent to show through.

Diane Venora only succeeds in annoying the audience and appears to do little more than just following the motions. Venora, who plays a plastic surgeon on Chicago Hope, should stick with television until she becomes ready for real drama.

Latin American singer Marc Anthony puts little effort into his role as Juan Lacas, but he is at least believable. Glenn Plummer portrays Mr. Sherman, the innocent idealist teacher who is obviously going to be killed half way through the film. Plummer retains the most potential for the film's best performance, but the script lacks any character depth.

Both Jane and Mr. Sherman represent the optimism of American education, but

other than spitting out a few lines about the public education system, they make no real socially worthwhile commentary.

One problem with characterization lies in the lack of any believable aspect of the plot. Producer Jim Steele admits they used a great deal of creative license, but far too much to let the film contain any of the realism they attempt to achieve. In addition, *The Substitute* lacks any real direction, which can be expected from director Robert Mandel, whose list of discredits include *F/X* and *School Ties*.

None of the characters ever aptly convey any emotion or feeling. The sequences are hard to follow, and the fight scenes get lost in chaotic obscurity. Often, the audience may ask, "How did that happen?"

A short way into the movie, when principal Rolle breaks a wood paddle with his fist and rants that "power perceived is power achieved." It becomes obvious that *The Substitute* perceived has the audience deceived. The audience can no longer expect another *The Principal*, which, as bad as it was, exceeds *The Substitute* in every aspect.

The Substitute dwells in an unlikely combination of clichés. Clearly, an attempt to make a social comment concerning the prevalence of drugs and violence in our inner cities' schools exists, but with an appeal to Stephen Seagal type audiences.

The audience gains nothing, but perhaps the lesson that if the high school principal is dealing drugs, you should not hesitate to take him out.

Instead, a night with the VCR and a copy of *Lean On Me* will provide more in entertainment and social value than *The Substitute* could ever provide.

High octane fun

♦ *Gas Huffer's latest release continues with their spy/punk formula*

By COLIN TIERNEY
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Seattle-based garage/punk outfit known as Gas Huffer made its mark delivering hyped-up chunks of post-punk spy riffs. Their latest release, *The Inhuman Ordeal Of Special Agent Gas Huffer*, continues in that vein.

The 14-song disc is their second release since joining the independent label Epitaph, which specializes in supporting the punk rock scene.

Most of the tracks follow the style of their 1994 Epitaph release, *One Inch Masters*, but some of the song writing is not as strong.

Guitarist Tom Price releases semi-distorted signals followed by the precise back beat of drummer Joe Newton. Bassist Don Blackstone follows Price for the most part, but adds fills and thumping scales to keep the music spicy.

Vocalist Matt Wright's singing style is as guttural and nasal as ever, with the exception of the sweet-sounding verses of *Smile No More*, but that lasts only momentarily.

The opening track, *You Are Not Your Job*, starts off with an introduction from an old "dancing-made-easy" record, and then jumps into a flurry of power chords similar to the classic Bad Brains tune, *Right Brigade*.

Wasting no time, they jump right into *Fall of the Kingfish*, a fast-paced rocker about defeating evil crime lords.

Most of the songs' subject matter as well as the bands' persona could come out of a comic book or a James Bond movie, and the photography in the compact disc insert

Music Reviews

show their faith in covert activities.

No lyric sheet is included and some of the songs are indecipherable, but you can order one along with the latest comic that the band illustrates to tell their songs in pictures.

Mosquito Stomp, *Carolina Hot Foot* and the catchy *Matt's Mood*, featuring the brilliant lyrics, "I got some finger grease in the pickle juice, you say apologize but it ain't no use, you got opinions yeah and there hangin' loose, you mean as much to me as an old caboose," continue with the manic pace.

The listener is given a break halfway through the album with the cool, mid-tempo intro to *Tiny Life*. The intro could easily replace the Plugz work on the Repo Man soundtrack with its surfy/spacey, almost western sound, but then it dives into a frenzy.

Double-O-Bum deals with the laziness of the secret agents in the eyes of the civilians. Wright's parody of his character is hilarious with the lyrics, "You might think I'm a bum cause I get out of bed a little later than you, you can sit on your thumb and yap until you were dead, but I got something to do."

Wright's warblings don't always seem to fit with the music, but with a few listens, it all begins to make more sense.

With the lot of "serious" rockers around today and high-profiled rubbish, Gas Huffer offers an antidote with their stripped-down, high-energy fun.

Some may consider the lyrics cartoonish, but Gas Huffer seem only interested in having fun, and their live performances reflect that. The world would probably be a better place if people took a more light-hearted approach toward music, instead of



being so serious all the time.

While the album lacks a *Crooked Bird*, the semi-hit from *One Inch Masters*, big-time success is most likely not on Gas Huffer's wish list, and the band's persona reflects that.

In the age of punk revival, many bands fall into the pit of mediocrity, but Gas Huffer proves superior by surpassing the standard three-chord format and adding their own individual style and humor.

Overall, Gas Huffer's newest effort offers frenetic, high-energy, rock and roll, and they have secured themselves with another solid release.

Supercharged

"Some may consider the lyrics cartoonish, but Gas Huffer seem only interested in having fun, and their live performances reflect that."

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Hootie blows chance at repeated success

◆ *New Blowfish release does not match the precedent set by smashing debut album*

By MATTHEW T. CONNERY
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The new album from Hootie & the Blowfish qualifies as a sophomore slump.

Thinking realistically, it seems pretty difficult for a band to outdo an album that sells over 13 million copies, as *Cracked Rear View* did. Their first attempt to surpass it falls short with *Fairweather Johnson*.

It took a little over a year to come up with this new album and the evidence of a 14-song CD that lasts under 50 minutes provides an argument that maybe they should've taken more time in the studio. The musicianship of the band improves in *Johnson*, without using the simple two guitars, bass and drums setup that dominated on their first effort. Piano parts, accordions, sad cellos and a violin add some much-needed variety to the somewhat formula sounds of their last album.

Despite the improvements in the overall sound of the band, by adding and not taking away, the band fails at grasping the same intensity and thoughtfulness that appeared on *Cracked Rear View*. Though some tracks come close, *Johnson* doesn't have the same start to finish quality that made *Rear View* the largest selling debut for a pop album of all time.

The good songs and the bad ones eventually balance each other off to leave the listener with a pretty good album, but one that can't touch the intensity or sensitivity of *Hold My Hand* or *Let Her Cry*.

The album accomplishes some miraculous things from time to time. When Hootie and company combine the instrumentation of *Johnson* with the lyrics resonating from *Rear View*, the Blowfish give birth to a sound that might win over the people that have come to abhor their music.

Earth Stopped Cold At Dawn provides an example of the capabilities of the band in years to come. The guitar licks prove catchy, the lyrics ring of introspection after a loss and the background vocals of Nanci Griffith complement frontman Darius Rucker's deep, soul-rattling bel-lows like no other. By combining these elements with a background cello sullenly toiling away, they create a much-improved sound over *Rear View*.

The hit or miss feel to the album continues with poor tracks such as *So Strange*, *Let It Breathe* and the title track. *So Strange* and *Let It Breathe* seem very similar and just run into one another with their indistinguishable repetition and Rucker's voice droning on in monotone. The song *Fairweather Johnson* ends up as a 51 second spoof of

all fairweather football fans, with the band members talking and laughing obnoxiously in the background.

Back on the positive side, their first single off the disc, *Old Man & Me*, does everything that any Blowfish follower would ask of them. Rucker wails thoughts of death and dying with a hopeful edge and an upbeat musical ensemble backing him. "Seen a million faces, seen a million faces die, and I wonder who will walk with me when I get to Heaven."

Also triumphing on the album, *Tootie* and *Be The One* show a new creativity to the band and falls into the groove that has carried them to their status in the music world. *Tootie's* violin and cello, along with surprisingly interesting background vocals, make for a powerfully sad song and the last well done track.

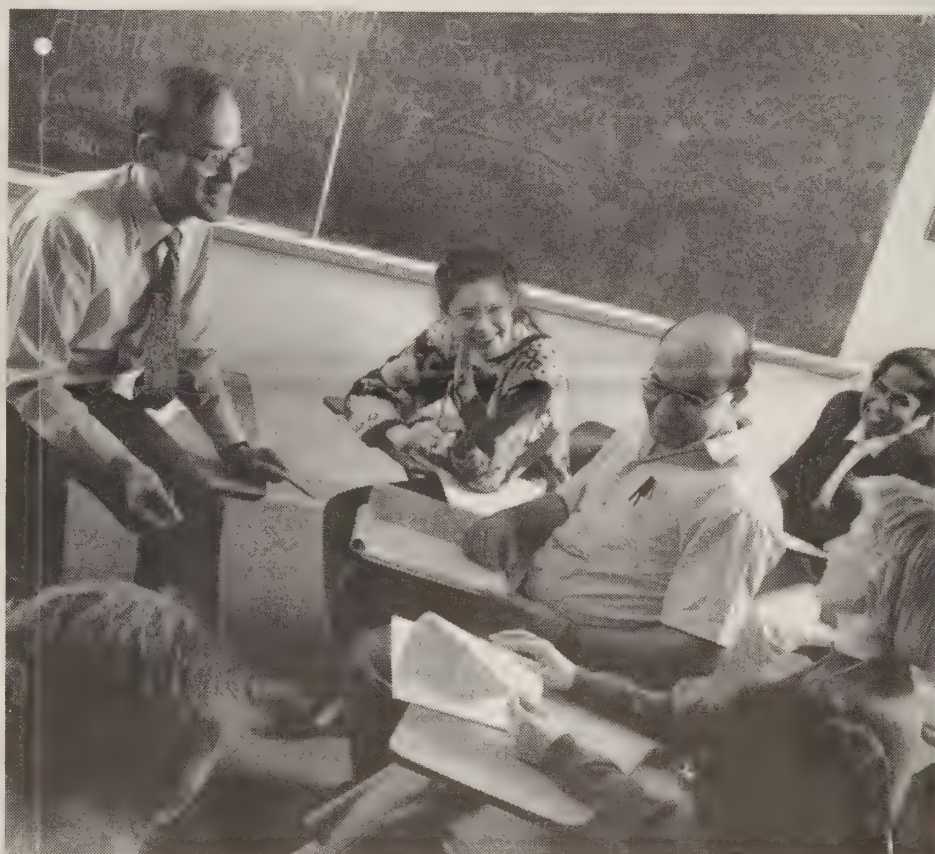
Silly Little Pop Song proves self-explanatory, while the final song, *When I'm Lonely*, seems destined for your ears on



your next trip in an elevator. The all or nothing nature of *Johnson* will certainly not win any new fans, but most die hard Hootie-heads should end up relatively pleased with the album.

The South Carolina quartet gives us reason to believe that we can expect better things from them in the future. Their accomplishments on *Johnson*, despite the equal number of failures, give fans hope of good things to come. The songs that failed had a haphazard feel to them and they obviously could've used a little more time in the studio to make a more presentable final product.

The disc features quotes from the band members about idiosyncratic information from each song, helping the listener to understand a little more about the band and each track. Along with that, the generally plain cover of the CD serves as an indication of the album's contents: generally plain.



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Scott Ferren

As if releasing a 28-song double-disc weren't enough, Smashing Pumpkins are at it again with the *Zero* CD-single.

The disc features six previously unreleased songs including a 23-minute assortment of over 70 Pumpkins' songs called *Pastichio Medley*.

The Pumpkins' unpredictability makes the band stand out from the rest of the alternative heap. Most bands today just spit out 40-minute albums that aren't well-thought out, and lack musical progress.

All the songs on *Zero* explore the harder side of the Pumpkins' wide-ranging arsenal. *Tribute To Johnny*, an instrumental, chugs along like a freight train with its groovin' guitar riffs. It sounds more bluesy than what Pumpkins fans are used to, almost like late '70s-era Aerosmith.

The title track should be familiar to most fans, but for those not in the know, it's one of the better songs on *Mellon Collie & The Infinite Sadness*.

A self-deprecating, full-tilt rocker, singer/guitarist Billy Corgan makes it short and sweet — it's only two minutes and 39 seconds long. The lyrics are the kind of which Corgan is known: revealing his fears and taking shots at those around him.

At one point Corgan declares, "I'm in love with my sadness," as if it's a good thing to be depressed; at another, he takes aim at God.

"God is empty — just like me."

The gloomy lyrics are hidden by the music. It sounds like a feel-good song with its intoxicating guitar sound, provided by Corgan and guitarist, James Iha. Bassist, D'Arcy and drummer, Jimmy Chamberlain's meaty backbone strengthen the song.

Another blazing track, *God*, sounds a lot like *Bullet With Butterfly Wings*, but without the sting. The verses are quiet and the chorus rages with plenty of screaming enthusiasm. It targets the omnipresent one once again and offers a weak apology for Corgan's caustic remarks.

"I hope God forgives me for my transgressions," Corgan sings.

It sounds like Corgan had a cold when he recorded it, and is probably the least charming song on the disc.

On the other side of the fence, *Pennies* is a bittersweet love song about being left behind. It's the calmest, sweetest track and its congeniality makes the listener want to sing along.

Mouths Of Babes and *Marquis In Spades* are similar in style. They both follow a distinct guitar riff throughout the songs, only pausing for solos, and could easily be played along with the first album, *Gish*. The songs are raw and Corgan's vocals wail with an abundance of intensity.

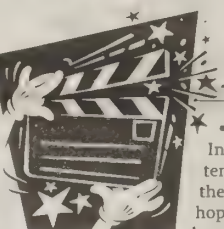
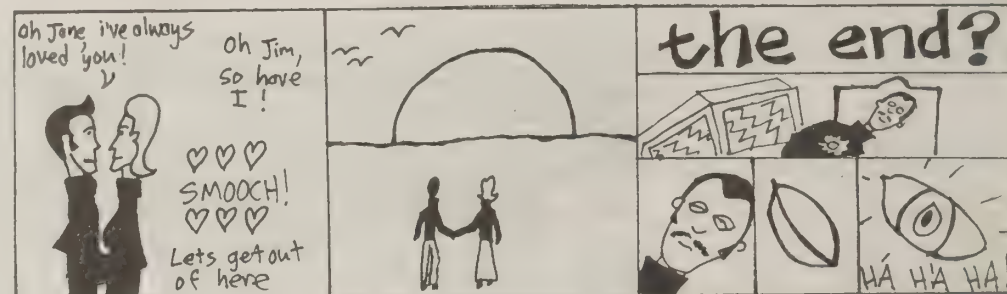
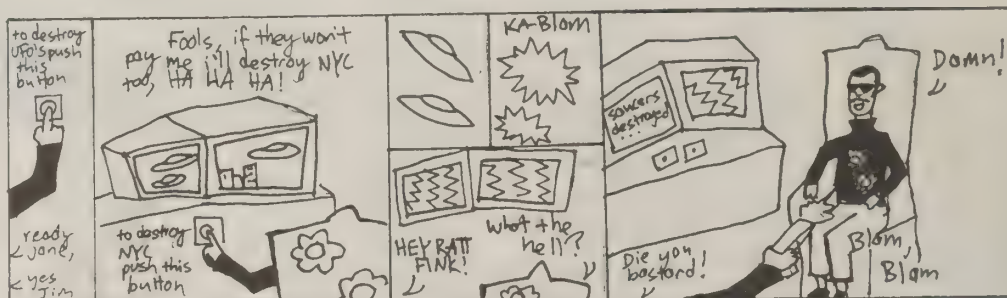
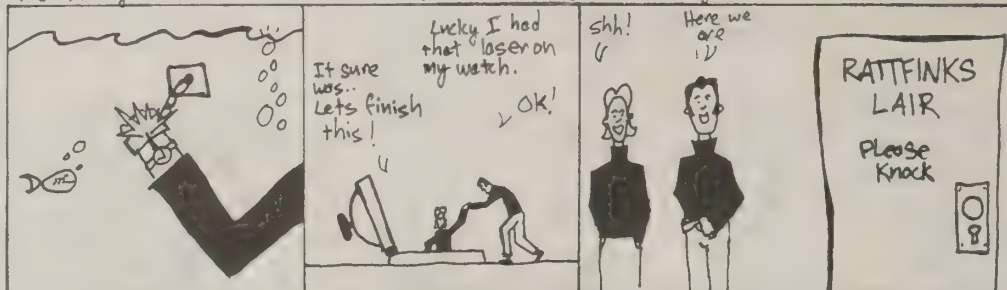
The lyrics on *Spades* hop around, providing no clue as to a deeper meaning, but the message in *Babes* is a bit clearer.

"The mouths of babes sing revolution, and the mouths of babes scream disillusion," Corgan sings in his trademark feminine whine.

If you like being ambushed by your music, then *Pastichio Medley* should quickly become a favorite. The music changes every few seconds with guitar riffs riding in and out, constantly loud and continually overbearing. It's not the type of song one listens to repeatedly. It's more of an experience to hear just once in a while.

It covers various music the Pumpkins wrote between their second album, *Siamese Dream*, and their most recent, *MC&TIS*. The sonic assault never seems to end, but when it does, one feels a sense of accomplishment for listening from beginning to end.

the exciting conclusion of the extraordinary ERASERS by Colin Tierney



Playing At Local Theaters



• **Celtic Pride** — In a vain attempt to display the anguish and hopes of the die-hard sports fan, *Celtic Pride* falls well short of the mark.

Dan Aykroyd and Daniel Stern star as two such fans who live in Boston. Their team, the Celtics, are in the NBA Finals against the Utah Jazz. The Jazz star player, played by Damon Wayans, presents too much of a threat to the Celtics, so Aykroyd and Stern take matters into their own hands and abduct him.

A number of cameos from sports figures like Larry Bird, Bob Cousy and Deion Sanders try desperately to salvage the movie, but in the end, *Celtic Pride* loses its honor. ★ out of four stars.

• **The Substitute** — Tom Berenger and Ernie Hudson star in yet another rehash of the typical action movie.

Berenger plays Shale, a former mercenary who has gone undercover at a Miami high school to stop the violence in the classrooms. The film represents an eclectic mix of *Dangerous Minds* and *Lean On Me* and gets away without saying or doing anything moviegoers haven't seen before. ★

• **The Quest** — Jean-Claude Van Damme tries out his directorial skills and proves that he should just stick to acting. The usual gory fight scenes reminiscent of *Kickboxer* and *Bloodsport* fill this dull and choppy picture. Appearances from ex-007, Roger Moore, don't help matters any.

The script gets ditched halfway through the movie, giving up on character growth and development and relies on the fight scenes to carry it to the end. Set in the lost city of Tibet, Van Damme fights his way through the picture. This film offers nothing new and gets quite boring. ★1/2

• **Mulholland Falls** — Reverting back to a much slicker time for the Los Angeles Police Department, *Mulholland Falls* looks

back to the intrigue and style of the '50s.

Nick Nolte, Chazz Palminteri and John Malkovich headline a somewhat unoriginal tale of good guys and bad guys in the pre-nuclear age. ★★

• **James & The Giant Peach** — Disney's latest creation is a masterpiece for all ages. The combination of animation and live action make this story about an orphan sent to live with his evil aunts a rare treat. ★★★

• **Primal Fear** — A semi-suspenseful courtroom thriller starring Richard Gere and Laura Linney hits the average mark for a Hollywood thriller.

A murdered archbishop, alleged schizophrenic suspect, confusing subplots and a surprise ending make *Primal Fear* the latest version of this clichéd plot. ★★ 1/2

• **Fear** — Former Funky Bunch frontman Mark Wahlberg returns to the big screen as the sole bright spot in the new thriller, *Fear*.

Wahlberg comes off as a believable madman. Confrontations with a girl's family prove ridiculous and most of the plot and acting don't measure up. Even Wahlberg's homemade tattoo of "Nicole 4 Eva" across his chest is laughable at best. ★ 1/2

• **The Truth About Cats & Dogs** — Despite the hackneyed "Cyrano" storyline, *Truth* captivates. Uma Thurman, Janeane Garofalo and Ben Chaplin star in the cute and quirky story of three people caught in a love meant for two. ★★★



DAN AYKROYD, Damon Wayans and Daniel Stern in 'Celtic Pride.'

Off Campus Arts

• The Nock Middle School in Newburyport hosts *The Spirit Of Tibet*, a live performance of the Lamas of Sera Je Monastery.

The May 4 event will feature a variety of shows and exhibits including music, chants, sacred dance, ritualized debate and authentic costumes. In addition, the live performances of *The Blessing of the Dance of Longevity* and *The Four Forest Friends* for World Harmony will also be featured.

Tickets to the event cost \$15 for adults, \$12 for senior citizens and \$10 for children. The show starts at 7 p.m. Call (508) 465-9359 for more information.

• World renowned musical group, *Up With People*, is making its way into the Haverhill High School Gymnasium on Wednesday, May 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Up With People will feature their newest production, *The Festival*, at the show. *The Festival* tells the tale about a young couple looking for a future in the midst of a two-day celebration.

A cast of 135 young performers from 21 countries perform in the show. Tickets cost \$11 for adults and \$8 for students and senior citizens.

• The American Repertory Theatre announced their May 10 to July 3 performances for their newest production, *The Naked Eye*.

The Naked Eye takes a satirical look at the meshing of sex, politics, society, race and art in the '90s, with the use of quick wit, diverse characters and belly-lauding humor.

Call (617) 547-8300 for tickets and information.

• UMass Lowell's theater club, the Off-Broadway Players, will perform the musical *A Day In Hollywood, A Night In The Ukraine* on May 2, 3 and 4 at 8 p.m.

The show, a slapstick comedy, depicts the wacky Marx Brothers in their comedic genius. Tickets cost \$6 at the door. Call (508) 934-4136 for more information.

Arts & Entertainment

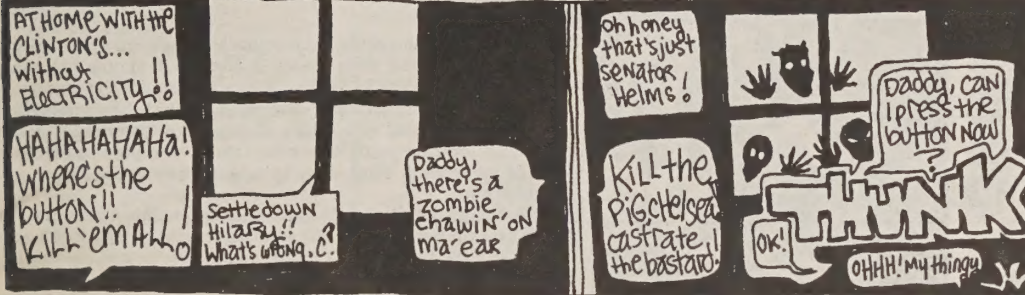
FLASH-EATING FREAKS 5: FEAST OF THE DAMNED by don hres A. 1996



FRESH-EATING FREAKS #666: WAR IS HELL...and ZOMBIES Suck too... by don hres



FRESH-EATING FREAKS 7: the Revenge of Chelsea Clinton by don hres A. 1996



Acts Coming to New England

Catch the following artists at clubs and stadiums all over New England in the coming weeks.

- Mellow out to the sounds of Lotion and Idaho with their May 1 appearance at Mama Kin.
- Rock for choice at Axis on Wednesday, May 1, with artists, Powerman 5000, Grind Mung and Bird Brain. This 18+ show starts at 9 p.m. and costs \$6.
- Bitter Little Dutch Boy will all be playing a 19+ show at Mama Kin on May 1. All tickets will be \$5.
- New York's Vineland will be at the Middle East on May 1 and Ralph's (508) 753-9543 in Worcester on May 2.
- The super sounds of the Super-suckers with special guests Teen Angles and Tenderloin, can be heard on Thursday, May 2, downstairs at the Middle East. This 18+ show costs \$8.
- The hardcore outfit, Shelter, is coming to Axis on Thursday, May 2, at 6 p.m. Tickets will be \$8.
- Buffalo Tom will headline May 2 at the Avalon. Tickets look to be quite limited for the show.
- The Canadian punk export D.O.A. will appear at the Rat on Saturday, May 4, with special guests Ultra Bride and Adversary. The show starts at 9 p.m. and is 19+.
- The Allstonians will appear at the Five-Can Festival, which will take place either at the Common or Esplanade in Boston on Saturday, May 4. You can also catch them Thursday, May 9 at the Phoenix Landing in Cambridge.
- The legendary gothic-punk band, the Misfits, are back after a 10-year hiatus with a new singer. To celebrate, they will play downstairs at the Middle East on May 5. All tickets cost \$10 for this event.
- Adult contemporary artist Sophie B. Hawkins will play the Avalon on May 7. Call TicketMaster for information.
- God Lives Underwater will play a \$4 show Wednesday, May 8, at Axis on Lansdowne Street.

- Catch the Buddy Guy Big Band with special guest Alvin Youngblood Hart at the Roxy, Saturday, May 11, at 7:30. All tickets will be \$25 for this 21+ show. Call (508) 346-4577 for tickets and information.
- Tribe 8 and Vitapup will play a show on Saturday, May 11, at T.T. the Bears Place. Call (617) 492-BEAR for information and tickets.
- Fred Schneider is coming to the Paradise on May 11. Call (617) 931-2000 for information.
- Casandra Wilson will appear May 12 at the Charles Ballroom. Call 876-7777 for all information.
- The reggae Led Zeppelin tribute band, Dread Zeppelin, will appear with Strangemen at Mama Kin on May 14. Call 351-2525 for more info.
- Stereolab will appear Thursday, May 16 at Mama Kin. Call (617) 351 2525 for information.
- The Posies are coming to the Paradise on Friday, May 17. Call (617) 931-2000 for more information.
- Elvis Costello is coming to the Paradise with special guest Steve Nieve on Monday, May 20. Call (617) 931-2000 for tickets and info.
- Calvin Trillin will appear May 23 at the Brattle Theatre. For information call 354-5201.
- Bruce Hornsby, appearing without his range, will play an 18+ show Saturday, May 25, at the Avalon. All tickets will be \$19.50.
- Steve Miller Band and Pat Benatar are coming to Great Woods on July 27. Call 423-NEXT for tickets and info.
- Catch Ray Charles Aug. 9, at the Harborlights Pavilion. Call 432-NEXT for tickets and information.
- The country music sensation, Wynona Judd will be at the Harborlights Pavilion on August 27. For information and tickets call 423-NEXT.
- Check out our next issue for listings on Great Woods and other acts coming to the area in the summer ahead.

'Observer'scopes

- ARIES** — People can no longer tolerate your temper tantrums. Find a gentler self within you or you may end up all alone.
- TAURUS** — The new leaves on the trees symbolize the birth of your next step in life. Act boldly and remember that you have earned all you have.
- GEMINI** — The time has come for your chance at reckless abandon. Spontaneity will bring you everything in your dreams.
- CANCER** — Adjustments in your life recently don't seem as hard as they should be. Relax with your new situation and realize that you have more in store for yourself than you can imagine.
- LEO** — Don't expect to climb out of your pit of hell any time soon. You have a long way to go on your road to recovery, but don't give up.
- VIRGO** — Disagreements with loved ones leave you feeling hurt and misunderstood. Always remember Ralph Waldo Emerson: To be great is to be misunderstood.
- LIBRA** — May is the month for lovin', so prepare yourself for a little rough and tumble in the long grass. Don't forget your allergy pills.
- SCORPIO** — You can finally devote yourself to the needs of others. Don't waste your time on yourself this summer.
- SAGITTARIUS** — Financial difficulties weigh you down. A little self control will pull you back up.
- CAPRICORN** — Look for the good in the bad situations in your life. Hope and love lurk within your darkest phantoms.
- AQUARIUS** — Stop worrying, happiness is here to stay. Smile free and enjoy the beautiful times that lay ahead of you.
- PISCES** — Your creativity remains at an all-time high. Put your ideas on paper and reap the benefits of your limitless mind.

Top 10

Alternative rock

1. Champagne Supernova: Oasis
2. Big Bang Baby: Stone Temple Pilots
3. Salvation: The Cranberries
4. Big Me: Foo Fighters
5. Machinehead: Bush
6. In The Meantime: Spacehog
7. Too Much: Dave Matthews Band
8. Mother Mother: Tracy Bonham
9. Santa Monica (Watch The World Die): Everclear
10. Ironic: Alanis Morissette

Singles

1. Because You Loved Me: Celine Dion
2. Always Be My Baby: Mariah Carey
3. Nobody Knows: The Tony Rich Project
4. Ironic: Alanis Morissette
5. 1,2,3,4 (Sumpin' New): Coolio
6. Down Low: R. Kelly
7. You're The One: SWV
8. Woo-Hah!! Got You All In Check/ Everything Remains Raw: Busta Rhymes
9. Count On Me: Whitney Houston & Cece Winans
10. Sittin' Up In My Room: Brandy

TV ratings

1. Seinfeld: NBC, Thursday, 9 p.m.
2. Harvest Of Fire: CBS, Sunday, 9 p.m.
3. Home Improvement: ABC, Tuesday, 9 p.m.
4. Caroline In The City: NBC, Thursday, 9:30 p.m.
5. ER: NBC, Thursday, 10 p.m.
6. Friends: NBC, Thursday, 8 p.m.
7. Boston Common: NBC, Thursday, 8:30 p.m.
8. 20/20: ABC, Friday, 10 p.m.
9. Walker, Texas Ranger: CBS, Saturday, 10 p.m.
10. Touched By An Angel: CBS, Sunday, 8 p.m.

Movies

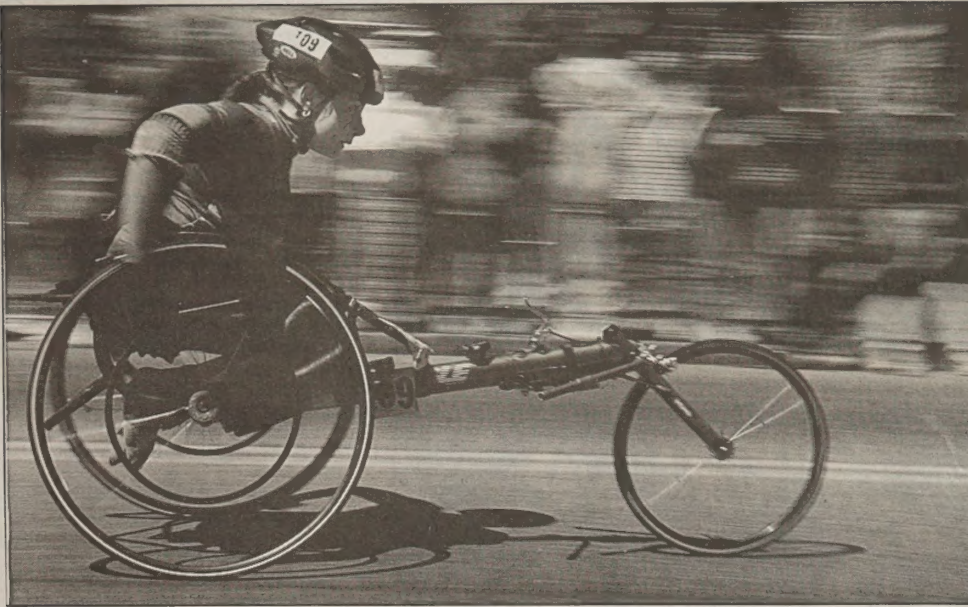
1. Primal Fear: Paramount, Richard Gere
2. The Substitute: Orion, Tom Berenger
3. James And The Giant Peach: Walt Disney, Animated
4. The Birdcage: United Artists, Robin Williams, Nathan Lane
5. Fear: Universal, Mark Wahlberg
6. Mrs. Winterbourne: TriStar, Ricki Lake
7. Celtic Pride: Hollywood, Dan Aykroyd
8. A Thin Line Between Love & Hate: New Line, Martin Lawrence
9. Sgt. Bilko: Universal, Steve Martin
10. Flirting With Disaster: Miramax, Ben Stiller

Fiction

1. Moonlight Becomes You: Mary Higgins Clark, Simon & Schuster
2. Primary Colors: Anonymous, Random House
3. In The Presence Of The Enemy: Elizabeth George, Bantam
4. Malice: Danielle Steel, Delacorte
5. The Horse Whisperer: Nicholas Evans, Delacorte
6. First King Of Shannara: Terry Brooks, Ballantine
7. The Celestine Prophecy: James Redfield, Warner
8. Absolute Power: David Baldacci, Warner
9. Spring Collection: Judith Krantz, Crown
10. Star Wars: Shadow Of The Empire: Steve Perry, Bantam Spectra

Nonfiction

1. In Contempt: Christopher A. Darden, with Jess Walter, ReganBooks
2. Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus: John Gray, HarperCollins
3. Simple Abundance: Sarah Ban Breathnach, Warner
4. Blood Sport: James B. Stewart, Simon & Schuster
5. The Search For Justice: Robert Shapiro, Warner



Whizzing by . . .

J. Courter photo
TRACY FERGUSON speeds by, creating only a blur. Ferguson finished eighth in her division.

Winners all around



Wedding on the run

J. Courter photo
DENISE SCHWABB exchanges wedding vows, taking a break during the race. She and her husband went on to finish the running of Boston's 100th Marathon.



By JUSTIN COURTER
Staff Reporter

The recent running of the 100th Boston Marathon was a great excuse to take a day off from school or work, but for the thousands participating it was an exercise in human strength and courage.

A father-son team known as Team Hoyt finished their seventeenth Boston Marathon. Dick, 55, and Rick, 25, have been competing all across the country for many years. What makes their story unique is that Rick, afflicted by Cerebral Palsy, rides in a wheelchair as his father jogs alongside him.

Rick said he doesn't feel disabled when he and his father run. The Hoyt's have competed in over 605 events all over the world. In '92, they completed a 45-day trek cross-country, biking 45 miles and running five miles a day. The pair said the Boston Marathon is their favorite race.

While all the commotion of the race was happening, two marathoners running together took a detour at the Wellesley Congregational Church to get married.

Denise Schwabb and Wed Walters of Marietta, Ga. used the race as a backdrop for their wedding. Dressed in running shoes and tailor-made wedding/running attire, the lovebirds took a 20-minute break from the action to exchange vows and tie the knot.

Editor Scott Ferren contributed to this story.



And the winner is

J. Courter photo
MOSES TANUI, of Kenya, finishes first overall, top left. A group of runners cluster at the Marathon's 15 mile mark at 1:12:53 of the race, left.

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Gym springs into the new season

◆ Unusual games and free snacks bring students to the gym

By JELANI PHILLIPS
Sports Editor

In mid April, the athletic department and student activities agreed to put on a festival in the gym called Spring Fling to make students familiar with the activities going on this spring and summer.

Athletic Director Carl Beal, with help from student activities, planned an afternoon of events so students could enjoy a day of fun for free.

Some of the events included sumo wrestling, Robo Pong 2000, as well as free pool, drinks and popcorn.

"It has been so tough to get the word out about things around here," Beal said. "So when I heard that student activities was bringing sumo wrestling to the school, I figured I could bring ping pong and provide popcorn and soda for everyone while telling them about things coming up."

The sumo wrestling was put on by a company called The Party People. They are stationed out of Milford, Conn. and visit high schools and colleges all around New England.

People participating in the sumo wrestling event wear a suit that weighs about 20 pounds and a helmet. The object of the game is to knock a person on the floor. The first participant to push the other one down twice wins. They wrestle on a padded mat to avoid injury.

Daryl Cummings, an employee of The Party People, has traveled all over New England putting on the game and says it remains a huge success.

"I have been doing this for several years now, and everybody that has tried this has enjoyed it," Cummings said. "It is safe and is extremely exciting."

The other main event was a game called Robo Pong 2000. It is put on by a company from Bedford, N.H. called Table Tennis of New England.

The game is basically you against the machine. Once the game begins the machine shoots out ping pong balls at the participant at any speed the player chooses.

The company also put on a demonstration on how to play ping pong.

Kurt Lloyd, a company member, said Robo Pong 2000 is great if you want to work on different shots on the table.

"This machine is excellent if you want to play but have nobody to play with," Lloyd said. "It teaches forehands, backhands and how to handle spin on the ball, but it also helps you build your confidence so you can

really improve your game."

Homer Brown, the sole proprietor of the company, has been running the company part-time for about a year and a half, but started running it full-time New Year's Day.

Brown has been playing table tennis for 30 years now and at one time was ranked 39th in the country, and at 47 years of age, he is one of the top seniors in the country.

During his 30 years of competition he has won five national titles and now coaches his son who is the under-10 national champion.

The company's sole purpose is to open people's eyes to ping pong by giving lessons and supplying equipment.

"I love the game of ping pong, and I wanted to teach others this game because it can be played by all ages," Brown said. "When you get old in other sports, you don't play anymore, but in ping pong you don't have to stop, you can keep playing."

Rose Wile, intramural coordinator, was impressed with how many students came down to the gym for the day.

"I thought this was an excellent idea and I believe this will help us get more people involved in our intramural activities," she said.

Beal said the Spring Fling introduced many students to the gym and hopes people



Get out of my face

R. Ahern photo

NECC STUDENTS participate in the sumo wrestling activity during the Spring Fling festival. The event was put on to attract students to the gym.

are aware of the events going on this spring, and they'll come out and participate.

"This was a great day and most impor-

tantly students enjoyed it," Beal said. "And we got the word out about things around here."

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Working to get it right

◆ Upcoming dance shows to feature semester's work

By SHAY SULLIVAN
Staff Reporter

The members of the Still Point Dance troop are anything but still as they enter the last week of rehearsal for their May 3 and 4 performances.

The preparation that began in January will culminate in an hour long show and according to April Pozzi, the line up includes everything but tap.

Pozzi, a veteran of dance performance, will appear in four of the 12 pieces scheduled for Friday. Pozzi began dancing at the age of three, and her career highlights include dancing for Busch Gardens and an appearance in the new film, *Celtic Pride*.

Although Pozzi has maintained a lifelong interest in dance, not all the members of Still Point share her experience. "One of the best things about Still Point is that the skill levels vary, some of our members are dancing for the first time," Pozzi said.

Maria DeFrancesco hopes the professionalism of their routines will help generate an audience.

"Still Point usually gets a better turnout than the student dance groups because it's mostly professional choreography," DeFrancesco said.

Jacqui Young is responsible for five of the pieces, including *First Night Without You*, *100% Pure Love*, *Second Choice*, *Alone and Crazy For Me*. Choreography for *Boadicea Suite* and *The Places You Find Love* was done by Adrienne Minez.

Adviser Elaine Mawhinney takes credit for the choreography of *Faces and Summer-time*. Mawhinney also collaborated with David Bibeau and Andrea Whalen for *After The Garden*.

Other choreography credits go to Trish Walker for *Arabesque* and to Dodie Holmes for *Take Me To The River*.

The Still Point performance includes music from Melissa Etheridge, Annie Lennox, Crystal Waters, Cindy Lauper, Enya, Whitesnake, Sounds From The Womb, Quincy Jones, Germaine Tailleferre, and Kitaro.

Stage fright has yet to strike as the group enters the last days of rehearsal. "I'm not nervous now, but I will be on Friday," said DeFrancesco, and several others nod in agreement. Judging by the skill displayed at rehearsal, the Still Point dancers have little to worry about.

Admission costs \$5 and \$3 for students and senior citizens. Tickets can be purchased from club members or at the door. Performances will be held in the Haverhill campus gym, May 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m.



Hitting the floor

J. Courter photos
THE STILL POINT dancers will perform May 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Haverhill gym. April Pozzi and Maria DeFrancesco, above, Pozzi, Colleen McLaughlin, Dave Bibeau, Hope Micklon and Carrie Garber, left, and Garber, below, will showcase 12 dances with music ranging from Annie Lennox to Enya.



Student pursues lifetime passion for dance

◆ A lifetime of steps on stage have shaped this dancer's life

By TRACY BERLING
Staff Reporter

Hope Micklon, a 19-year-old freshman, has trained long and hard for her upcoming Still Point dance performances.

Micklon, a dancer since the age of three, credits her parents for getting her interested in dance.

"My parents thought it would be cute to have a little ballerina on stage, and they just haven't been able to get me off since," she said.

In the last 15 years, Micklon has studied tap, ballet, jazz and point at the Carlene Nazarians Dance Center in Salem, N.H. While there, she competed locally, regionally and nationally. Her most recent trip

took her to perform at Epcot Center in Florida.

With dance always being a main focal point in her life, Micklon said, "My parents have helped me through my triumphs and frustrations. Recently, when I was injured, my parents' support and encouragement persuaded me to continue after recovery. They have never missed any of my performances—not even one."

Micklon dances over 10 hours a week in preparation for her upcoming Still Point performance.

At NECC, Micklon belongs to the NECC Dance Company and takes a dance performance course.

A 1995 graduate of the Dance Teachers Club of Boston, Dance Education Training School, Micklon majors in psychology. She says she has hopes to one day be able to incorporate the art of dance with the field of psychology through dance therapy.

Micklon hopes to leave NECC in the fall and attend Bradford College where she will continue her dance training.



On your toes

J. Courter photo
HOPE MICKLON practices for the upcoming Still Point performance, which will feature a variety of dance and music styles. Admission is \$5 for the general public and \$3 for students and senior citizens.